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Painter **Brian Stelfreeze** creates the classic cover to this special issue of *THE MAZE AGENCY* -- celebrating the anniversary of the first real detective story, written by Edgar Allen Poe!

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THIS ISSUE: In "A Crime In Eden," Jen and Gabe visit a Biosphere called Eden II, an artificial environment constructed in the Southwest. But its director of marine ecological systems is dead, and Eden II's funder needs The MAZE Agency to solve the crime!

A Garden Of Earthly Demise!

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INNOVATION

the MAZE AGENCY®

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INNOVATION™

The Book of Justice

"Poe invented the detective story that he might not go mad."

-- Joseph Wood Krutch

As mentioned in these pages earlier, comic books have been an active medium for just over half a century now. As a result, many popular characters are also celebrating their 50-year anniversaries. Some, like Will Eisner's *Spirit*, have received very little public notice but have nonetheless been acclaimed by fans. Others are simply second-rate creations who have managed to wheeze into their sixth decade, not by dint of quality or memorability, but by how cleverly they've been merchandised over the years (no names, please -- this is a celebration).

However, 1991 commemorates not only the creation of a famous *character*, but the birth of an entire *genre* in one fell stroke -- and it's not often that two such signal events occur simultaneously. Comic books, for instance, existed for several years before the most famous character created especially for comics emerged -- I speak, of course, for *Superman*. But an unpre-tentious little monthly called *Graham's Magazine* featured, in its April, 1841 issue, a story entitled "The Murders In the Rue Morgue," by one Edgar A. Poe. That story introduced all the major elements of the detective story as we know it today.

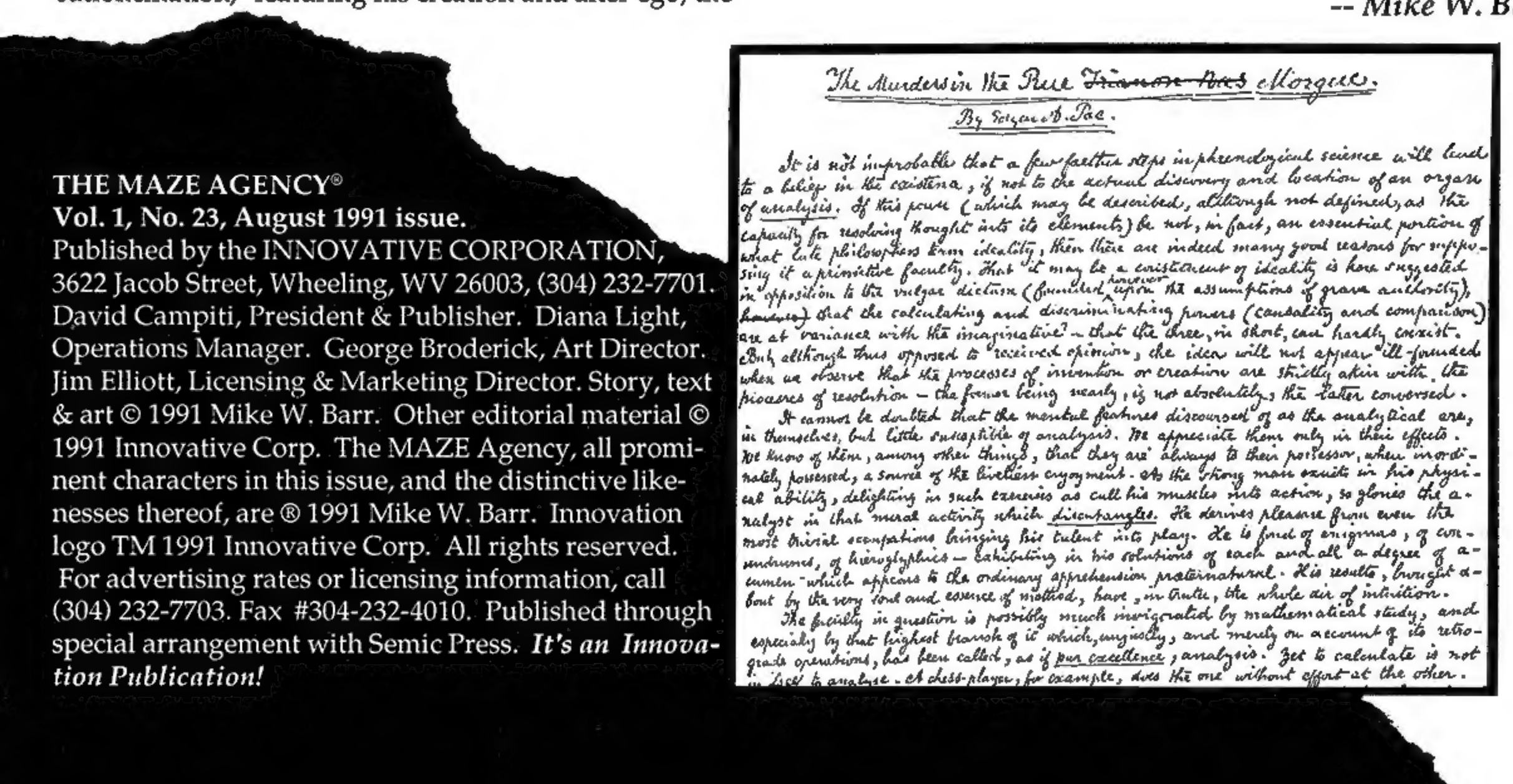
Yes, tales of crime, mystery, and murder have flourished as long as Man, for the roots of crime twist deep in the human psyche. But it took the troubled genius of Poe to bring all the elements together -- the incredible (in this case, impossible) crime, the baffling clues, the worshipful assistant/narrator and, that element without which the detective story cannot exist, the brilliant and eccentric detective. (Astute readers will find many of the elements in "The Murders In the Rue Morgue" duplicated in this issue's story -- though in vastly varying form, and with an entirely different solution.) Poe wrote three such "tales of ratiocination," featuring his creation and alter ego, the Monsieur C. Auguste Dupin, the second being "The Mystery of Marie Roget," in which Poe claimed (not entirely truthfully) to have solved the real-life murder of a New York girl, and a third whose title, "The Purloined Letter," has entered the everyday lexicon. (Critics still debate whether two other non-Dupin stories, "The Gold Bug" and "Thou Art the Man," are detective stories or not -- some maintaining that they are excluded because they withhold all evidence from the reader until after the solution has been revealed.)

Many detective stories were written after Poe had shown authors the way, but it took Arthur Conan Doyle to distill all impurities from the mixture and create the most famous fictional character of all time in Sherlock Holmes. Since then, generations of writers have tried their own hands at the genre created by Poe, codifying the "rules," refining and rewriting to arrive at what John Dickson Carr calls "The Grandest Game In the World," a game that can be played in the rough-and-tumble world of Raymond Chandler or in the never-never land of Ellery Queen.

And detective stories continue to flourish. Why? They provide entertainment, of course, and escape...but it would be a flaw often attributed to Dr. Watson and his brethren to overlook the obvious -- the detective story posits a world very much like our own, in which murder can strike at any time, but a world in which justice is done, a world in which injustice as avenged. Raymond Chandler said of the detective in his essay "The Simple Art of Murder": "If there were enough like him, I think the world would be a very safe place to live in, and yet not too dull to be worth living in."

Here's to the next century and a half.

-- Mike W. Barr



The Murders in the Rue ~~Morgue~~ Morgue.

By Edgar A. Poe.

It is not improbable that a few farther steps in phrenological science will lead to a belief in the existence, if not to the actual discovery and location of an organ of analysis. Of this power (which may be described, although not defined, as the capacity for resolving thought into its elements) be not, in fact, an essential portion of what late philosophers term ideality, then there are indeed many good reasons for supposing it a primitive faculty. That it may be a constituent of ideality is here suggested in opposition to the vulgar dictum (founded, however, upon the assumptions of grave authority), heard even, that the calculating and discriminating powers (causality and comparison) are at variance with the imaginative? - that the three, in short, can hardly exist. But although thus opposed to received opinion, the idea will not appear ill-founded when we observe that the processes of invention or creation are strictly akin with the processes of resolution - the former being nearly, if not absolutely, the latter converted.

It cannot be doubted that the mental features discoursed of as the analytical are, in themselves, but little susceptible of analysis. We appreciate them only in their effects. We know of them, among other things, that they are always to their possessor, when moderately possessed, a source of the liveliest enjoyment. As the strong man exults in his physical ability, delighting in such exercises as call his muscles into action, so glories the analyst in that moral activity which disentangles. He derives pleasure from even the most trivial occupations bringing his talent into play. He is fond of enigmas, of conundrums, of hieroglyphics - exhibiting in his solutions of each and all a degree of acumen which appears to the ordinary apprehension preternatural. His results, brought about by the very soul and essence of method, have, in truth, the whole air of intuition.

The faculty in question is possibly much invigorated by mathematical study, and especially by that highest branch of it which, unjustly, and merely on account of its retrograde operations, has been called, as if par excellence, analysis. Yet to calculate is not in itself to analyse. A chess-player, for example, does the one without effort at the other.

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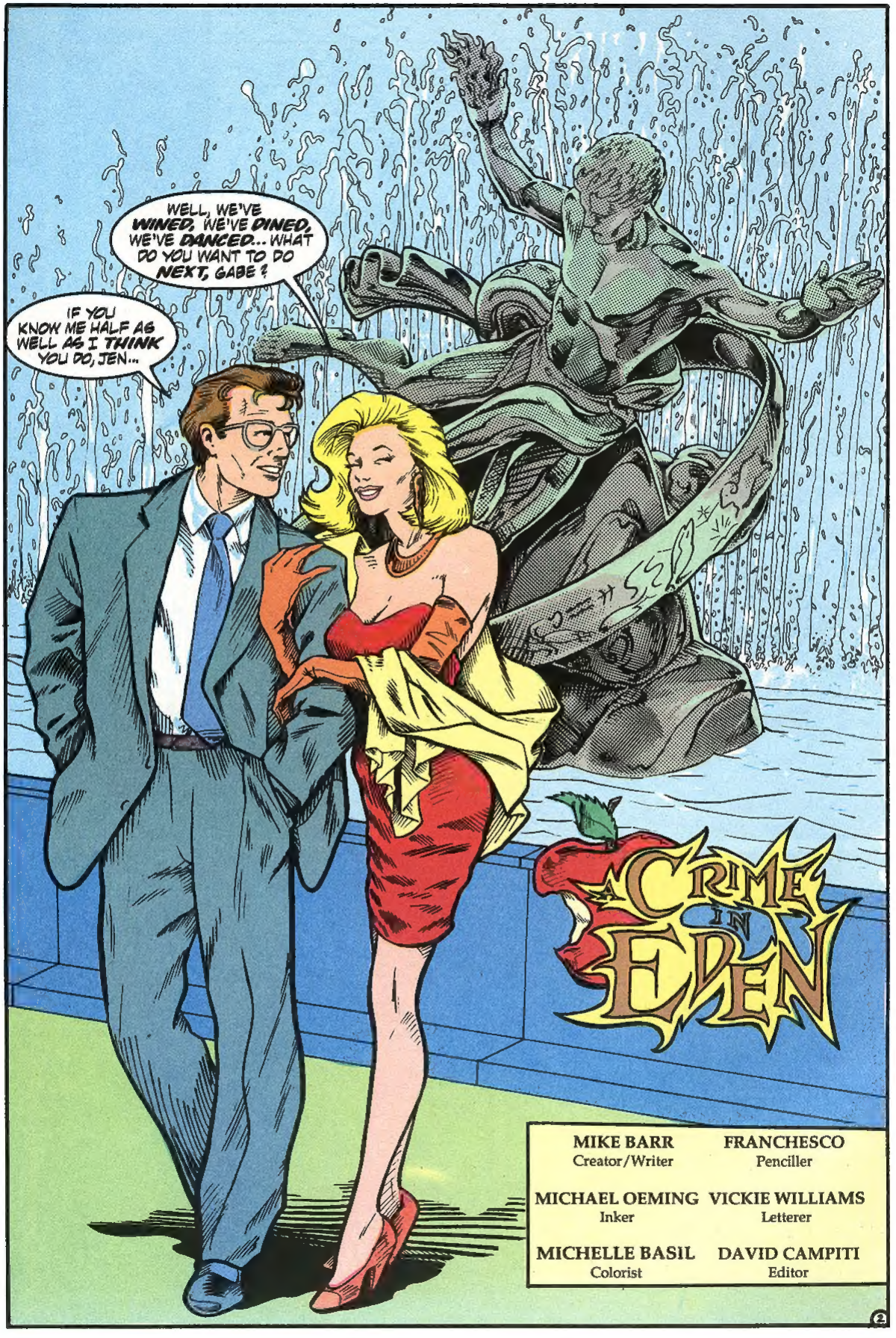
WHAT ARE YOU DOING--?
GAAAAAH--!
AAAAAAAAAA



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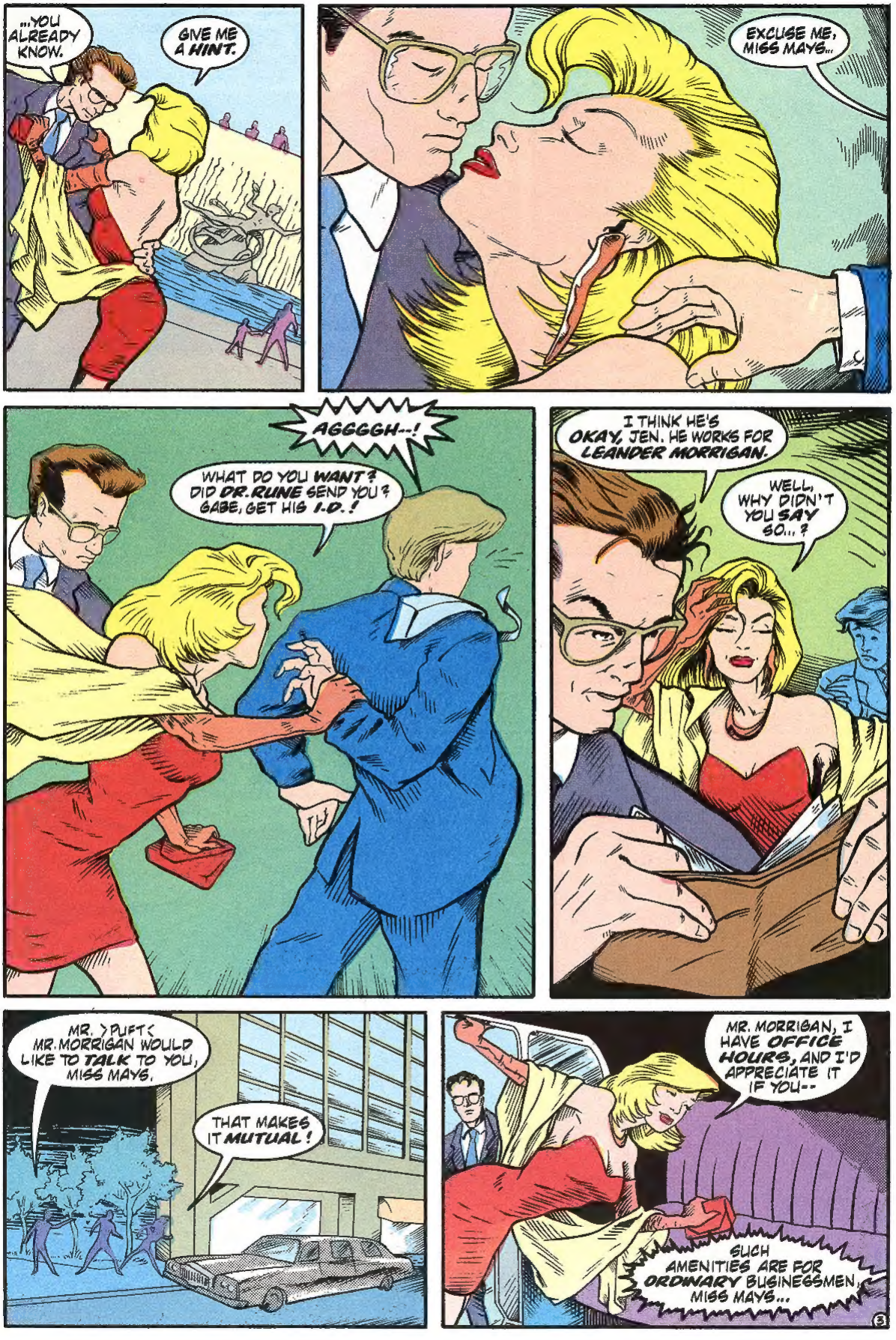
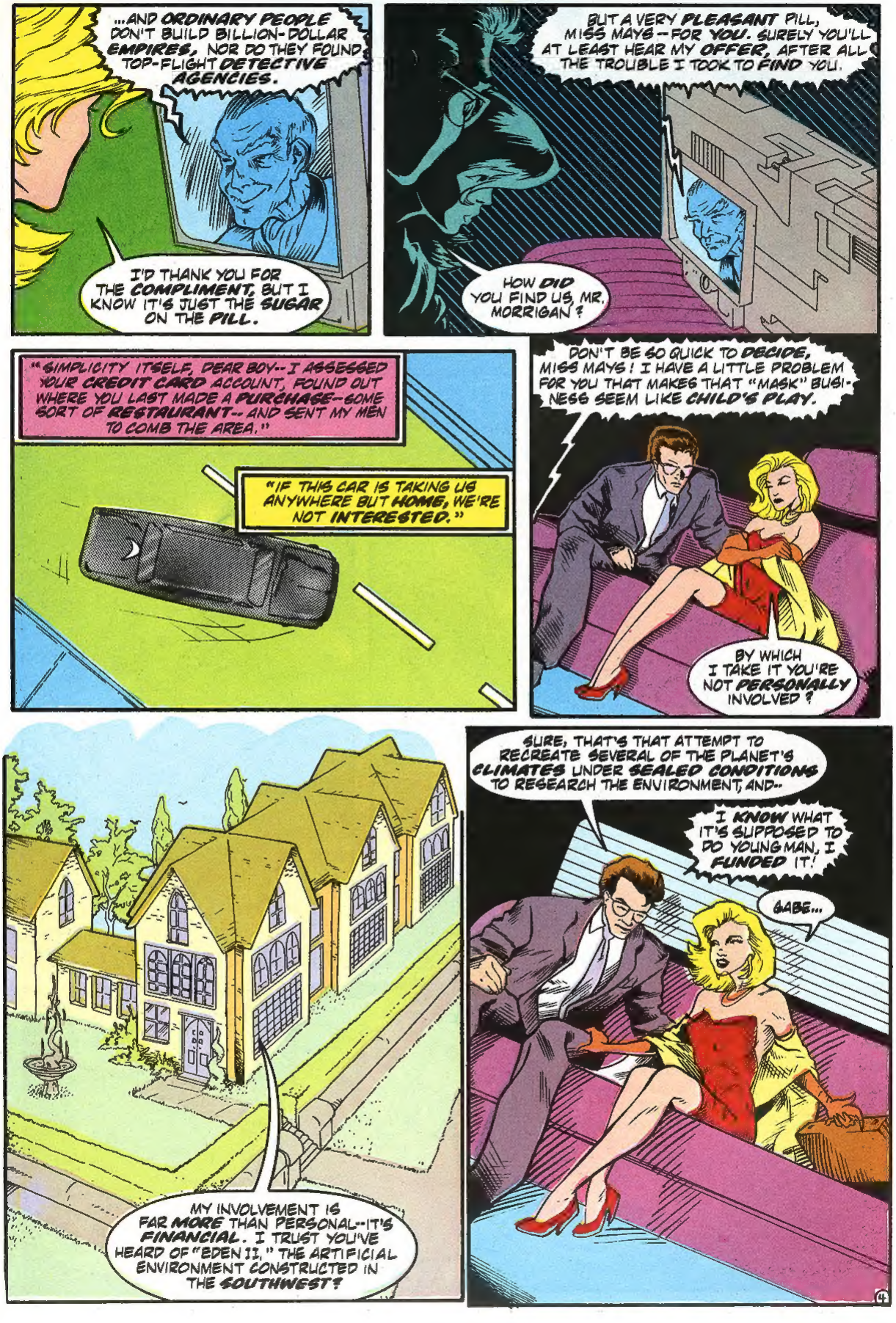
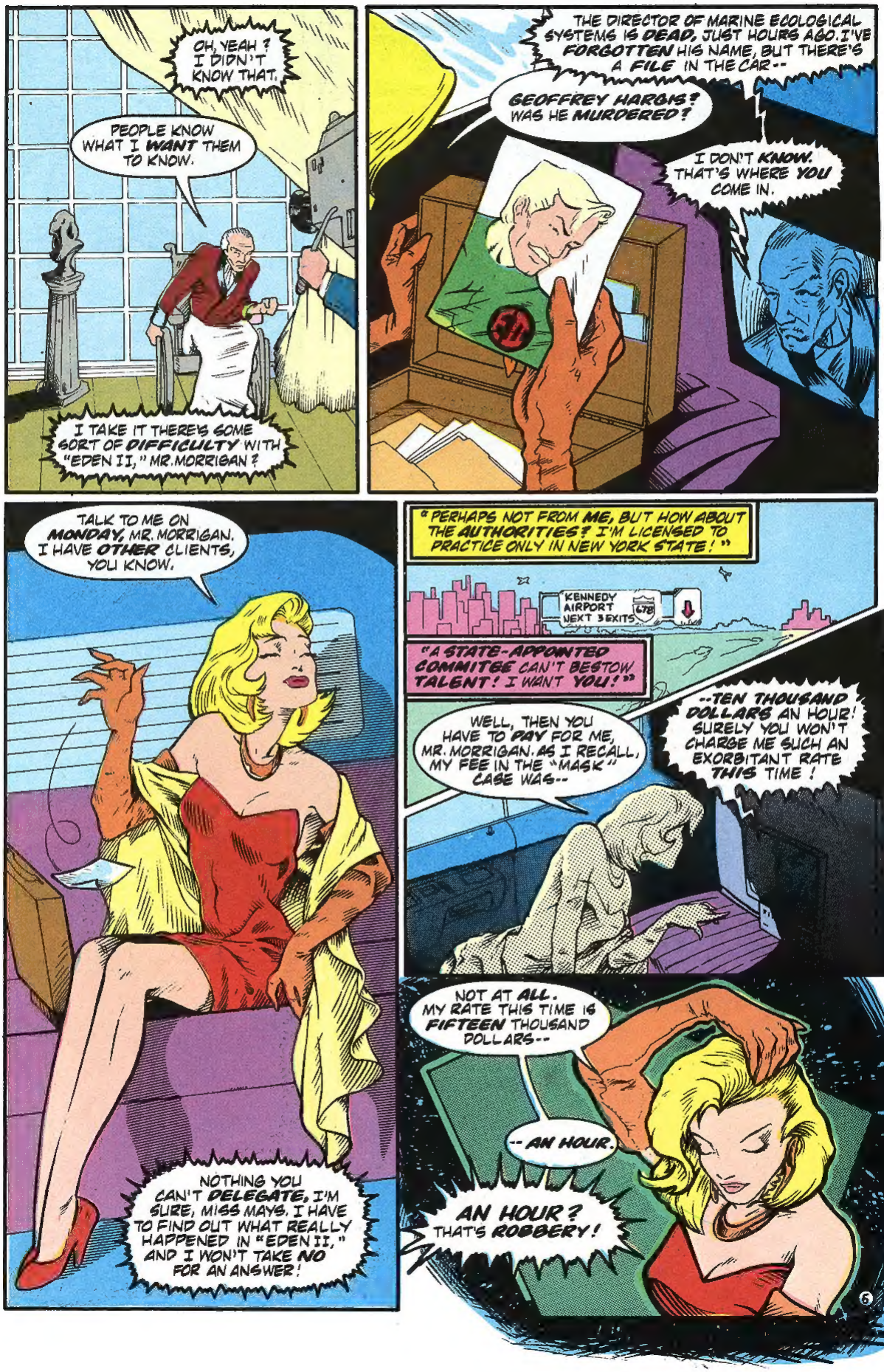
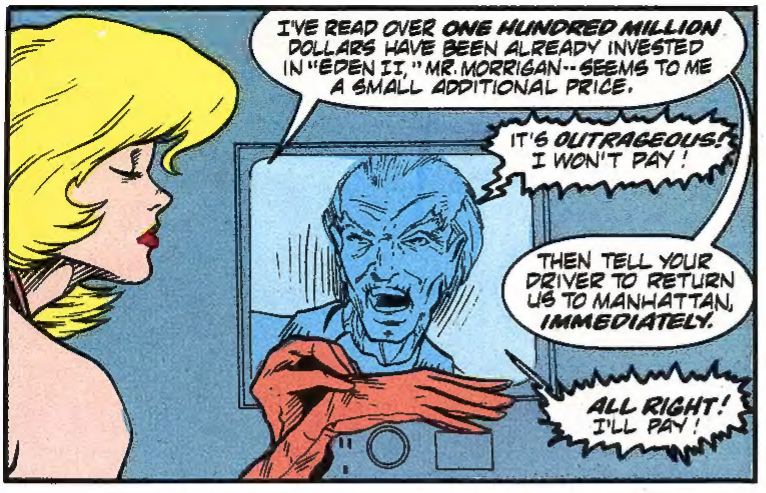
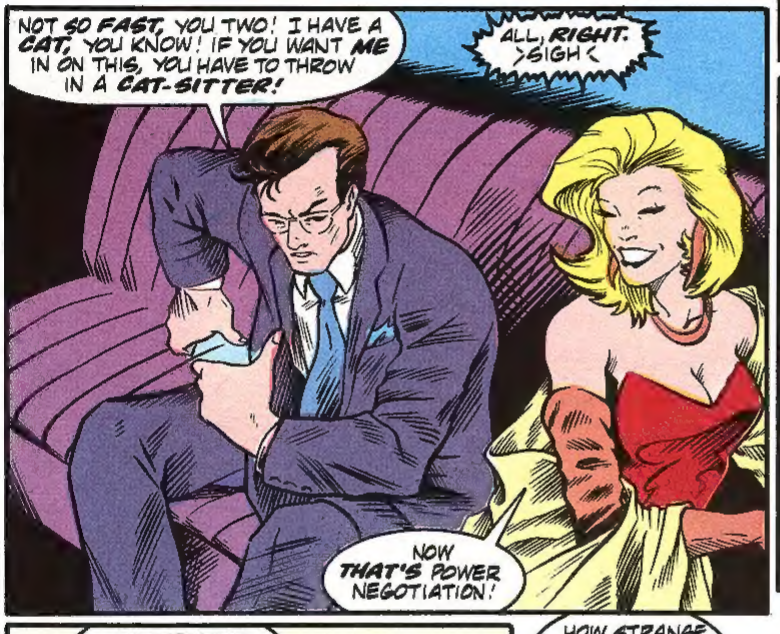

...YOU ALREADY KNOW.
GIVE ME A HINT.
EXCUSE ME, MISS MAYS...
AGGGGH--!
WHAT DO YOU WANT? DID DR. RUNE SEND YOU? GABE, GET HIS I.D.!
I THINK HE'S OKAY, JEN. HE WORKS FOR LEANDER MORRIGAN.
WELL, WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO...?
MR. >PUFF< MR. MORRIGAN WOULD LIKE TO TALK TO YOU, MISS MAYS.
THAT MAKES IT MUTUAL!
MR. MORRIGAN, I HAVE OFFICE HOURS, AND I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU--
SUCH AMENITIES ARE FOR ORDINARY BUSINESSMEN, MISS MAYS...


...AND ORDINARY PEOPLE DON'T BUILD BILLION-DOLLAR EMPIRES, NOR DO THEY FOUND TOP-FLIGHT DETECTIVE AGENCIES.
I'D THANK YOU FOR THE COMPLIMENT, BUT I KNOW IT'S JUST THE SUGAR ON THE PILL.
BUT A VERY PLEASANT PILL, MISS MAYS--FOR YOU. SURELY YOU'LL AT LEAST HEAR MY OFFER, AFTER ALL THE TROUBLE I TOOK TO FIND YOU.
HOW DID YOU FIND US, MR. MORRIGAN?
"SIMPLICITY ITSELF, DEAR BOY--I ASSESSED YOUR CREDIT CARD ACCOUNT, FOUND OUT WHERE YOU LAST MADE A PURCHASE--SOME SORT OF RESTAURANT--AND SENT MY MEN TO COMB THE AREA."
"IF THIS CAR IS TAKING US ANYWHERE BUT HOME, WE'RE NOT INTERESTED."
DON'T BE SO QUICK TO DECIDE, MISS MAYS! I HAVE A LITTLE PROBLEM FOR YOU THAT MAKES THAT "MASK" BUSINESS SEEM LIKE CHILD'S PLAY.
BY WHICH I TAKE IT YOU'RE NOT PERSONALLY INVOLVED?
MY INVOLVEMENT IS FAR MORE THAN PERSONAL--IT'S FINANCIAL. I TRUST YOU'VE HEARD OF "EDEN II," THE ARTIFICIAL ENVIRONMENT CONSTRUCTED IN THE SOUTHWEST?
SURE, THAT'S THAT ATTEMPT TO RECREATE SEVERAL OF THE PLANET'S CLIMATES UNDER SEALED CONDITIONS TO RESEARCH THE ENVIRONMENT, AND--
I KNOW WHAT IT'S SUPPOSED TO DO YOUNG MAN, I FUNDED IT!
GABE...

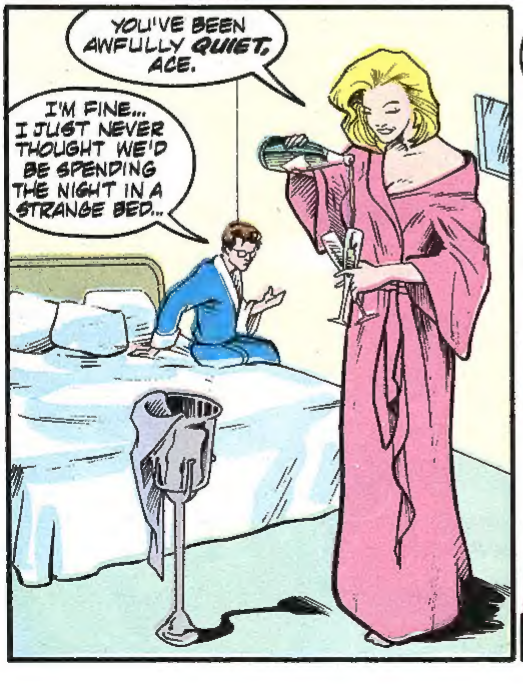

OH, YEAH? I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.
PEOPLE KNOW WHAT I WANT THEM TO KNOW.
I TAKE IT THERE'S SOME SORT OF DIFFICULTY WITH "EDEN II," MR. MORRIGAN?
THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS IS DEAD, JUST HOURS AGO. I'VE FORGOTTEN HIS NAME, BUT THERE'S A FILE IN THE CAR--
GEOFFREY HARRIS? WAS HE MURDERED?
I DON'T KNOW. THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN.
TALK TO ME ON MONDAY, MR. MORRIGAN. I HAVE OTHER CLIENTS, YOU KNOW.
NOTHING YOU CAN'T DELEGATE, I'M SURE, MISS MAYS. I HAVE TO FIND OUT WHAT REALLY HAPPENED IN "EDEN II," AND I WON'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER!
"PERHAPS NOT FROM ME, BUT HOW ABOUT THE AUTHORITIES? I'M LICENSED TO PRACTICE ONLY IN NEW YORK STATE!"
KENNEDY AIRPORT NEXT 3 EXITS
678
"A STATE-APPOINTED COMMITTEE CAN'T BESTOW TALENT! I WANT YOU!"
WELL, THEN YOU HAVE TO PAY FOR ME, MR. MORRIGAN. AS I RECALL, MY FEE IN THE "MASK" CASE WAS--
--TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS AN HOUR! SURELY YOU WON'T CHARGE ME SUCH AN EXORBITANT RATE THIS TIME!
NOT AT ALL. MY RATE THIS TIME IS FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS--
-- AN HOUR.
AN HOUR? THAT'S ROBBERY!
6


I'VE READ OVER ONE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS HAVE BEEN ALREADY INVESTED IN "EDEN II," MR. MORRIGAN -- SEEMS TO ME A SMALL ADDITIONAL PRICE.
IT'S OUTRAGEOUS! I WON'T PAY!
THEN TELL YOUR DRIVER TO RETURN US TO MANHATTAN, IMMEDIATELY.
ALL RIGHT! I'LL PAY!

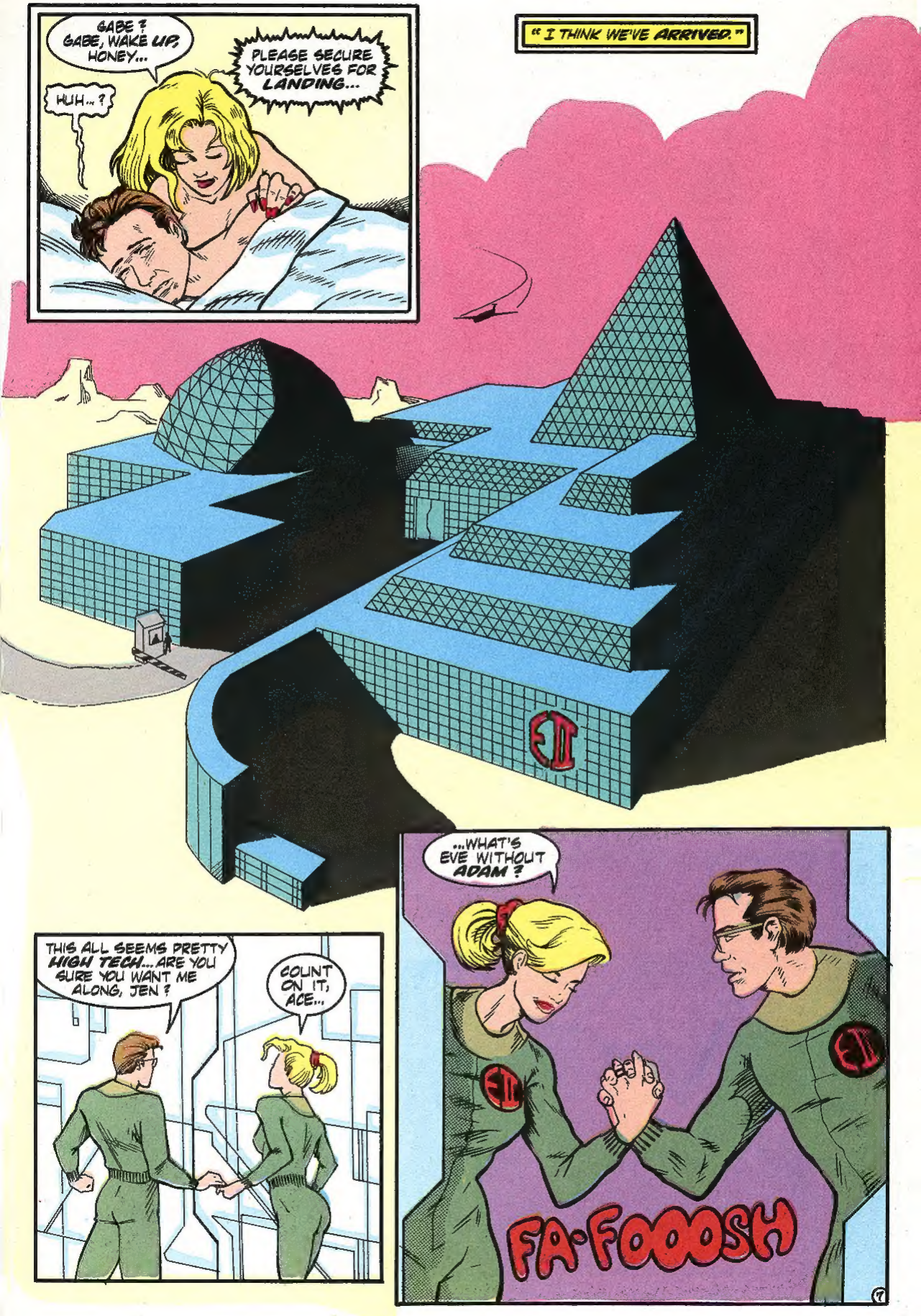
WELL, FINE. HAVE A SIGNED CONTRACT AWAITING MY ARRIVAL AT "EDEN II," PLEASE.


NOT SO FAST, YOU TWO! I HAVE A CAT, YOU KNOW! IF YOU WANT ME IN ON THIS, YOU HAVE TO THROW IN A CAT-SITTER!
ALL, RIGHT. >SIGH<
NOW THAT'S POWER NEGOTIATION!

GOOD EVENING, MISS MAYS, MR. WEBB. I'M PALILO, YOUR STEWARD. I SUPPOSE YOU'LL BE WANTING TO GET A LITTLE REST... ?
WITH A LITTLE CHAMPAGNE THROWN IN, YES.


YOU'VE BEEN AWFULLY QUIET, ACE.
I'M FINE... I JUST NEVER THOUGHT WE'D BE SPENDING THE NIGHT IN A STRANGE BED...

HOW STRANGE CAN IT BE IF YOU'RE SHARING IT WITH A FRIEND... ?


GABE ? GABE, WAKE UP, HONEY...
HUH...?
PLEASE SECURE YOURSELVES FOR LANDING...
"I THINK WE'VE ARRIVED."
...WHAT'S EVE WITHOUT ADAM ?
FA-FOOOSH
THIS ALL SEEMS PRETTY HIGH TECH... ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT ME ALONG, JEN ?
COUNT ON IT, ACE...

"OF COURSE, I DON'T REMEMBER THIS MANY PEOPLE IN THE FIRST EDEN..."
PROF. JEAN L'ESPANAYE: SCIENTIST, PHILOSOPHER, FUTURIST; FRANCE.
MARISA L'ESPANAYE: ENGINEER, GERMANY.
DR. KATYA MOLDORI: PHYSICIAN, USSR.
DR. ROGER WILSON: BOTANIST, USA.
DR. ROSITA GARCIA: ENTOMOLOGIST, SPAIN.

WE'LL SHOW YOU TO YOUR QUARTERS, THEN GO OVER YOUR ASSIGNED DUTIES, MISS MAYS.
ACTUALLY, PROFESSOR L'ESPANAYE, I'D PREFER TO SEE THE CRIME SCENE.

IF THERE WAS A CRIME, POOR GEOFFREY MAY HAVE SIMPLY PERISHED IN A FALL. I WARNED HIM ABOUT CLIMBING AT NIGHT. BUT IF ANDY IS SO SET ON--
"ANDY?"
LEANDER--MR. MORRIGAN. HE AND I HAVE BEEN FRIENDS SINCE COLLEGE.

...ALL WE KNOW, MR. WEBB, IS THAT MY GEOFFREY DIED OF INJURIES TO THE SKULL. AN AUTOPSY WAS INCONCLUSIVE AS TO WHETHER A FALL WAS RESPONSIBLE OR NOT.
IT WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST "FALL" THAT HAPPENED IN EDEN, DR. MOLDORI
"MY GEOFFREY...?"

GEOFFREY AND KATYA WERE ENGAGED TO BE MARRIED, MR. WEBB. FORTUNATE THAT THEY HAD THEIR WILLS CHANGED TO BENEFIT EACH OTHER BEFORE HIS UNFORTUNATE PASSING.

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#4 -- Hughes, Thompson/Elliott, Yeates art. Bradbury hommage ($3.00)
#5 -- Hughes, Thompson/Elliott, Tsuda art. Barks hommage ($5.00)
#6 -- Sensational *spanking cover* by Adam Hughes! Thompson/Elliott art. ($3.00)

LEGENDS OF THE STARGRAZERS PORTFOLIO *Seven* art-sized plates by Adam Hughes. Now out of print! ($14.95)

***LEGENDS OF THE STARGRAZERS POSTER* (Full Color) 2' x 3'**
#1 -- By Thompson/Elliott ($6.95)

***LEGENDS OF THE STARGRAZERS GRAPHIC NOVELS* (Full Color)**
#1 -- 100 pages, Hughes cover ($9.95)
#2 -- Sexy Thompson/Elliott cover ($9.95)

***THE LUNATIC FRINGE* (Full Color)**
#1 - #2 -- Statema art. ($2.00 each)

***MANGLE TANGLE TALES* (Full Color)**
#1 -- Intro by Harlan Ellison! ($2.95)

***THE MAZE AGENCY* (Full Color)**
#8 -- Art by Adam Hughes! ($3.50)
#9 -- Starring ELLERY QUEEN! Adam Hughes art ($3.50)
#10 - #23 (All-new, 2.50 each)
SPECIAL #1 -- Willingham, Alan Davis, Rick Magyar art! ($2.75)
ANNUAL #1 -- Eisner hommage issue. Art by Ploog and Loebs! ($2.75)

MAZE BOOK: THE MAZE AGENCY COLLECTION
#1 -- Comico's first four issues revised and reprinted, plus new Adam Hughes art and cover! Special: ($4.95)

NEON CITY
#1 -- Stunning futureviews, computer-created art! ($2.25)

***NEWSTRALIA* (Full Color)**
#1 -- From creator of *Hawkworld*! Tim Truman art. *Sold out from publisher!* ($12.00)
#2 through #5 -- ($2.25 each)

***NIGHTMARE* (Full Color)**
#1 -- Story and art by Alex Nino! ($1.95)

***NIGHTMARES ON ELM STREET* (Full Color)**
#1 -- All-new! Elegant Freddy Krueger cover painting! ($2.50)

NINJA*BOTS SUPER SPECIAL
#1 -- Ye gods! Special: ($1.50)

OVERTURE
#1 - #2 -- Humor. Recommended! ($2.25 each)

***Piers Anthony's Incarnations of Immortality: ON A PALE HORSE* (Full Color)**
#1 -- 52 pages, painted by Okamoto! ($4.95)

***POWER FACTOR* (Full Color)**
#1 - #3 -- Innovation's version ($2.25 each)
#1 -- *SPECIAL* -- All-new action! Sexy cover! ($2.75)

***POWER FACTOR* (Full Color)**
#1 -- Wonder Color's version. Special: ($2.00)

***PROFESSOR OM!* (Full Color)**
#1 -- Adventures from "down under" ($2.50)

SCARAMOUCH
#1 - #2 -- Weird horror, like "What if Stephen King had written *Green Acres*?" ($2.25 each)

SCARLET KISS: THE VAMPIRE
#1 -- 52 pp! High school girls as vampires! Jackson Guice cover! ($3.00)

SHERLOCK HOLMES
#1 -- "A Study In Scarlet" Graphic Novel. *Sold out from the publisher!* ($8.95)

***SOULQUEST* (Full Color)** *Graphic Novel*
#1 -- In the*Elfquest* tradition! ($3.95)

***TERRAFORMERS* (Full Color)**
#1 -- Kelley (*Deadman*) Jones art! ($1.50)
#2 -- Special: ($1.50)

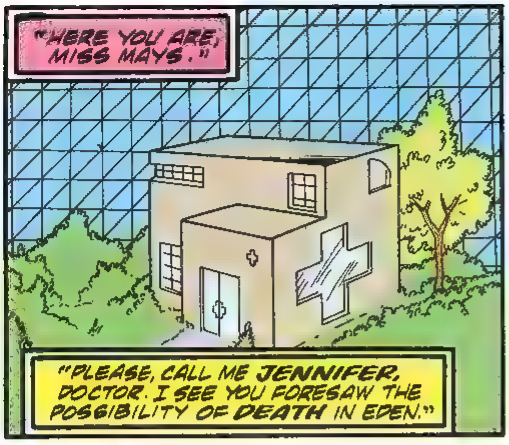
***Terry Pratchett's THE COLOUR OF MAGIC* (Full Color)**
#1 -- Beautiful art! ($15.00) *Completely sold out from the publisher!*
#2 - #3 All new! ($2.50 each)

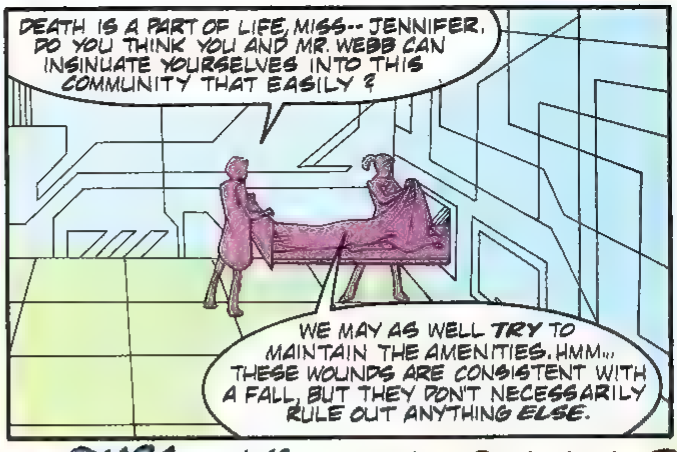
TIMEDRIFTER
#1 - #3 -- Time-tripping from Gerard Jones, author of *Justice League* and *The Trouble With Girls*! Pulp-style cover paintings by Mike Okamoto! ($2.25 each)

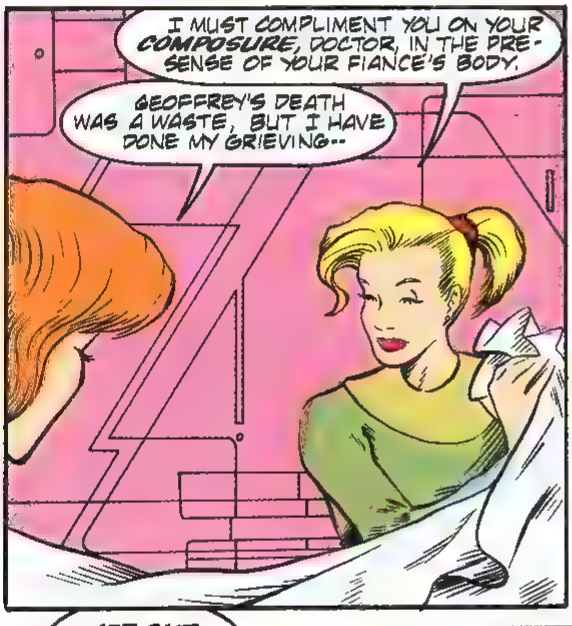
TORCHY
#1 -- Olivia De Berardinis cover! ($3.50)
#2 -- Classic Bill Ward art, Matt Thompson cover painting! ($2.50)
#3 -- Cover by Olivia! ($2.50)

***VOYAGES* (Color and B&W trade pbk.)**
#1 -- Brunner, Chaykin, Muth, and more! *Sold out from publisher!* Some scuffs. ($12.95)

***WALT KELLY'S SANTA CLAUS ADVENTURES* (Full Color) Trade Pbk.**
#1 -- All ages, by the creator of *Pogo*! ($6.95)


"HERE YOU ARE, MISS MAYS."
"PLEASE, CALL ME JENNIFER, DOCTOR. I SEE YOU FORESAW THE POSSIBILITY OF DEATH IN EDEN."


DEATH IS A PART OF LIFE, MISS-- JENNIFER. DO YOU THINK YOU AND MR. WEBB CAN INSINUATE YOURSELVES INTO THIS COMMUNITY THAT EASILY ?
WE MAY AS WELL TRY TO MAINTAIN THE AMENITIES. HMM... THESE WOUNDS ARE CONSISTENT WITH A FALL, BUT THEY DON'T NECESSARILY RULE OUT ANYTHING ELSE.

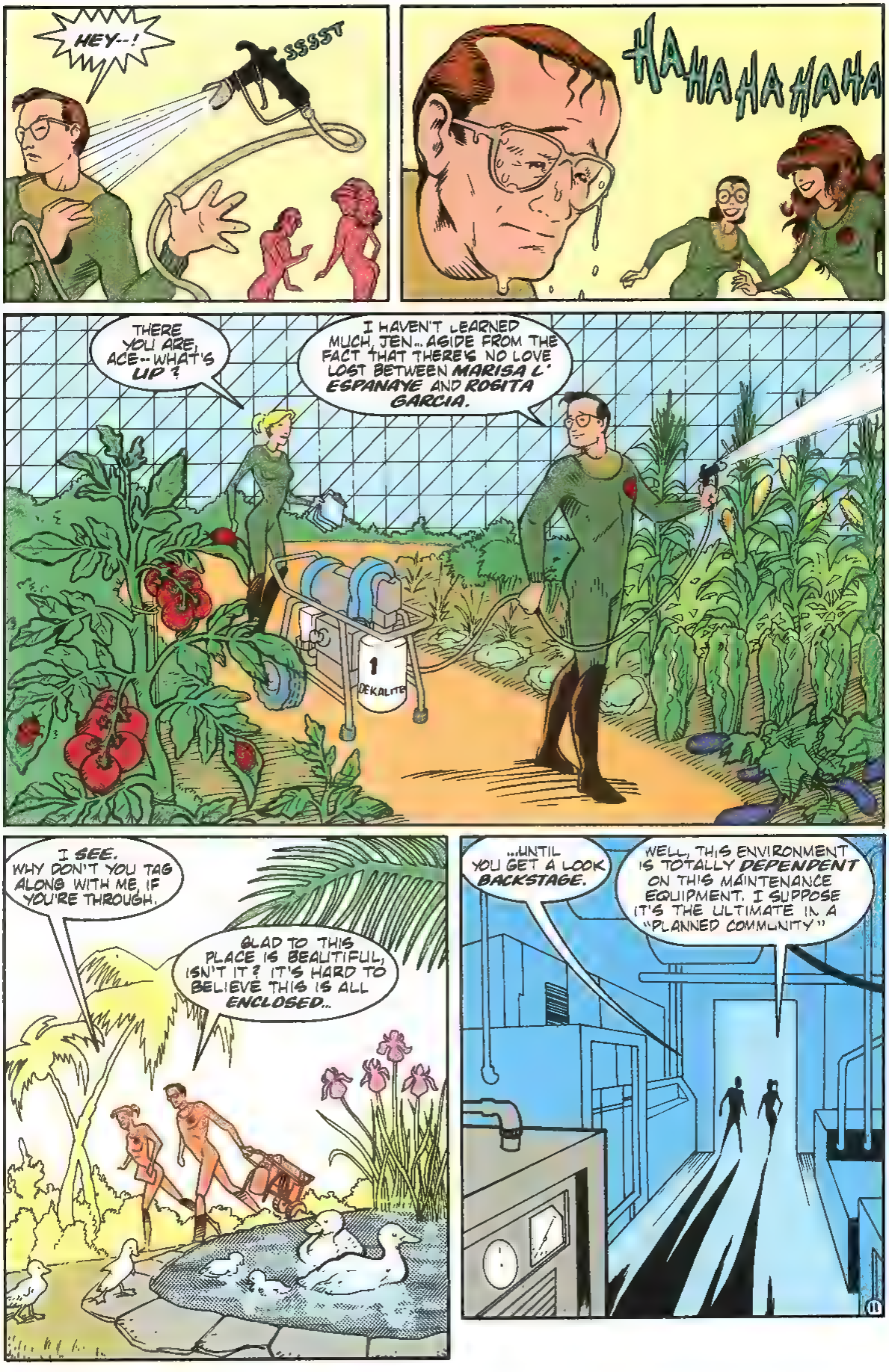

I MUST COMPLIMENT YOU ON YOUR COMPOSURE, DOCTOR, IN THE PRESENSE OF YOUR FIANCE'S BODY.
GEOFFREY'S DEATH WAS A WASTE, BUT I HAVE DONE MY GRIEVING--

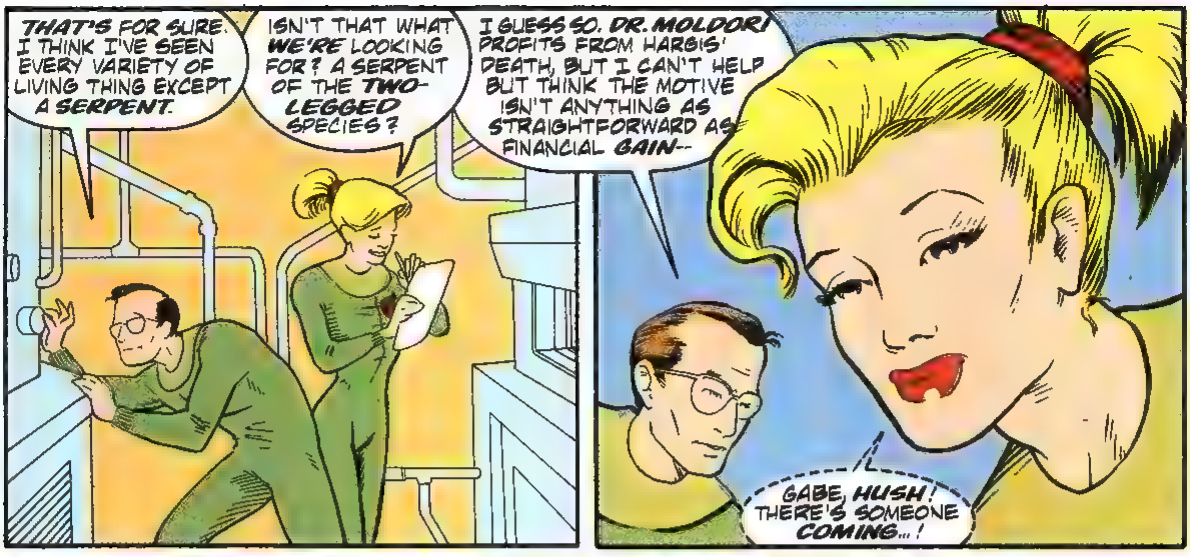
SKREEEK! MRRROOWWWWR!
WHAT'S THAT ?
OUR FIRST NATURAL ENEMIES, I BELIEVE !

GET OUT OF HERE, YOU DEVIL !
KEEEEEK!
RROOOWR

THIS LITTLE FELLOW HAS TAKEN A SHINE TO ME, I CALL HIM "GREYSTOKE." THE CAT IS CALLED "SATAN."
THEN THERE IS A DEVIL IN EDEN ! WHO DOES THE CAT BELONG TO ?

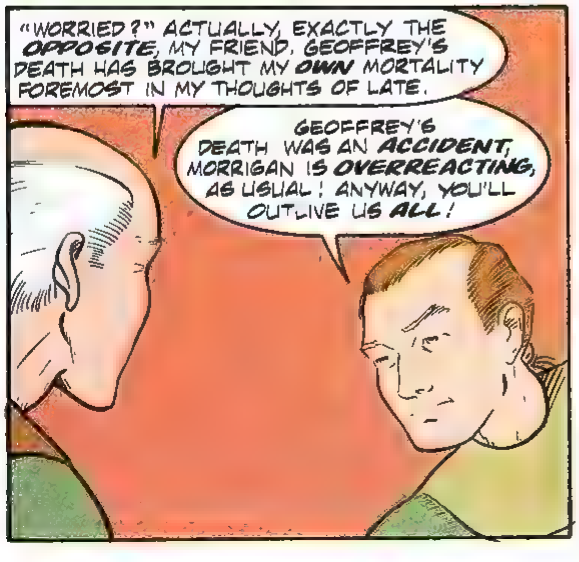
PROFESSOR L'ESPANAYE. THE CREATURE'S SURVIVAL INSTINCT SEEMS TO HAVE OVERRULED ITS IMMENSE CURIOSITY.. THUS FAR.
"I REALLY APPRECIATE YOU LADIES GIVING ME A RUN-THROUGH LIKE THIS."
"EDEN II WOULD NOT EXIST WERE IT NOT FOR SUCH COOPERATION, MR. WEBB."
ROSITA IS STILL VERY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE ENTIRE PROJECT, MR. WEBB, BUT AFTER BEING COOPED UP IN HERE FOR A YEAR, I AM SIMPLY GRATEFUL FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO TALK TO.
YEAH, I GUESS CABIN FEVER TAKES HOLD, NO MATTER HOW BIG THE CABIN.
"2 GALLONS," THAT SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT..
BETTER TO USE THE "DEKALITER" CONTAINER--THAT'S TEN LITERS, SLIGHTLY OVER TWO AND A HALF GALLONS.
1 DEKALITER
2 GALLONS
YOU MAY WANT A LITTLE EXTRA ROOM, TO AVOID SPILLAGE. AFTER ALL, THESE SUPPLIES ARE TO LAST US TWO YEARS.
YEAH, THANKS. LOOK, JEN IS BETTER AT THIS STUFF THAN I AM... I PREFER THE DIRECT APPROACH... DO EITHER OF YOU THINK HARGIS WAS MURDERED?
THAT PRESUMES A MOTIVE, DOESN'T IT? KATYA WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO STOOD TO GAIN BY HIS DEATH--
--AND SHE LOVED HIM VERY MUCH... SHE SAYS.
I THINK THAT ABOUT DOES IT...
10

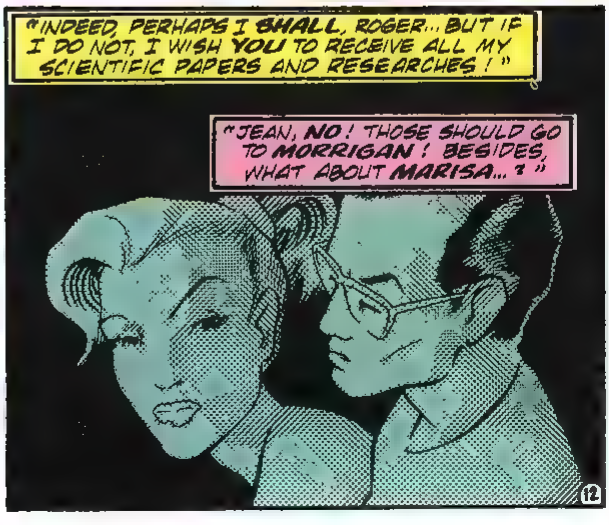

HEY--!
SSSST
HAHAHAHAHA
THERE YOU ARE, ACE--WHAT'S UP?
I HAVEN'T LEARNED MUCH, JEN... ASIDE FROM THE FACT THAT THERE'S NO LOVE LOST BETWEEN MARISA L' ESPANAYE AND ROSITA GARCIA.
1
DEKALITB
I SEE. WHY DON'T YOU TAG ALONG WITH ME, IF YOU'RE THROUGH.
GLAD TO THIS PLACE IS BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T IT? IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THIS IS ALL ENCLOSED...
...UNTIL YOU GET A LOOK BACKSTAGE.
WELL, THIS ENVIRONMENT IS TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON THIS MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT. I SUPPOSE IT'S THE ULTIMATE IN A "PLANNED COMMUNITY"
11


THAT'S FOR SURE. I THINK I'VE SEEN EVERY VARIETY OF LIVING THING EXCEPT A SERPENT.
ISN'T THAT WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR? A SERPENT OF THE TWO-LEGGED SPECIES?
I GUESS SO, DR. MOLDOR! PROFITS FROM HARRIS' DEATH, BUT I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK THE MOTIVE ISN'T ANYTHING AS STRAIGHTFORWARD AS FINANCIAL GAIN--
GABE, HUSH! THERE'S SOMEONE COMING...!

GET IN THERE, QUICKLY! WE MAY LEARN SOMETHING!
YOU EXPECT ME TO KEEP MY MIND ON WORK?

THANK YOU FOR MEETING ME HERE, ROGER.
NOT AT ALL, JEAN. YOU SOUNDED SO WORRIED..


"WORRIED?" ACTUALLY, EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE, MY FRIEND. GEOFFREY'S DEATH HAS BROUGHT MY OWN MORTALITY FOREMOST IN MY THOUGHTS OF LATE.
GEOFFREY'S DEATH WAS AN ACCIDENT, MORRIGAN IS OVERREACTING, AS USUAL! ANYWAY, YOU'LL OUTLIVE US ALL!

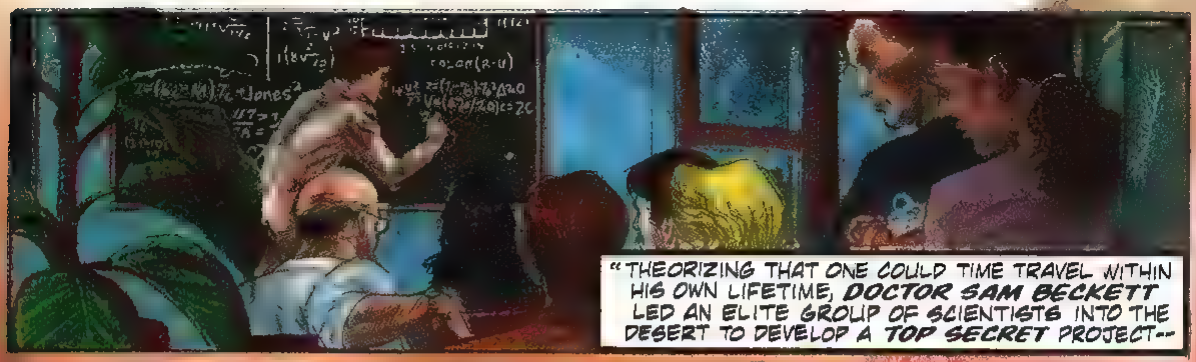

"INDEED, PERHAPS I SHALL, ROGER... BUT IF I DO NOT, I WISH YOU TO RECEIVE ALL MY SCIENTIFIC PAPERS AND RESEARCHES!"
"JEAN, NO! THOSE SHOULD GO TO MORRIGAN! BESIDES, WHAT ABOUT MARISA...?"

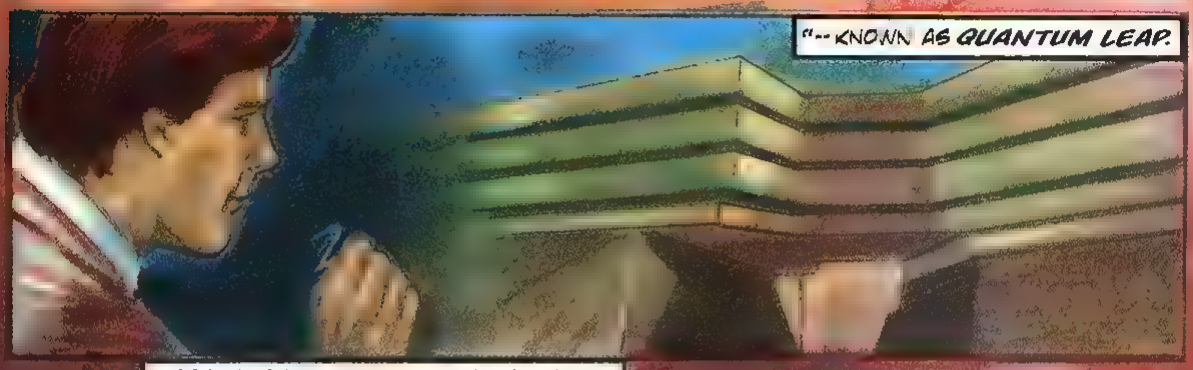
JULY, 1991

LEAP YEAR COMES EARLY

INNOVATION™

A Special Preview...


"THEORIZING THAT ONE COULD TIME TRAVEL WITHIN HIS OWN LIFETIME, DOCTOR SAM BECKETT LED AN ELITE GROUP OF SCIENTISTS INTO THE DESERT TO DEVELOP A TOP SECRET PROJECT--


"--KNOWN AS QUANTUM LEAP.

"PRESSURED TO PROVE HIS THEORIES, OR LOSE GOVERNMENT FUNDING, DOCTOR BECKETT PREMATURELY STEPPED INTO THE ACCELERATOR CHAMBER--

"--AND VANISHED!

"HE AWOKE TO FIND HIMSELF IN THE PAST, SUFFERING FROM PARTIAL AMNESIA AND FACING A MIRROR IMAGE THAT WAS NOT HIS OWN.
"FORTUNATELY, CONTACT WITH HIS OWN TIME IS MAINTAINED THROUGH BRAINWAVE TRANSMISSIONS WITH AL, THE PROJECT OBSERVER--
US MAIL
"-- WHO APPEARS IN THE FORM OF A HOLOGRAM THAT ONLY DOCTOR BECKETT CAN SEE AND HEAR.
"TRAPPED IN THE PAST, DOCTOR BECKETT FINDS HIMSELF LEAPING FROM LIFE TO LIFE--
"--PUTTING THINGS RIGHT THAT ONCE WENT WRONG--
"-- AND HOPING EACH TIME THAT HIS NEXT LEAP...
"... WILL BE THE LEAP HOME."

QUANTUM LEAP™

1

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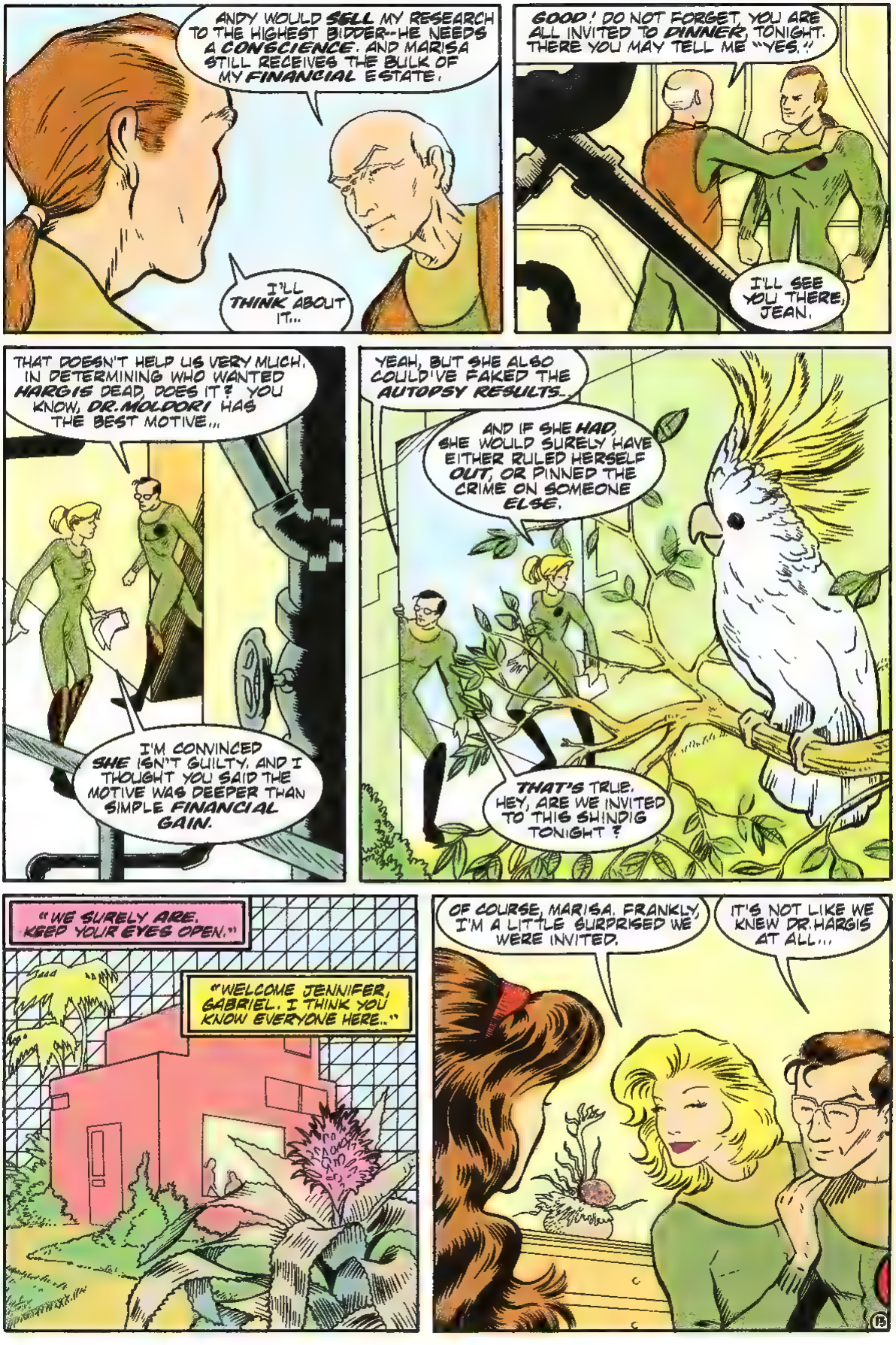
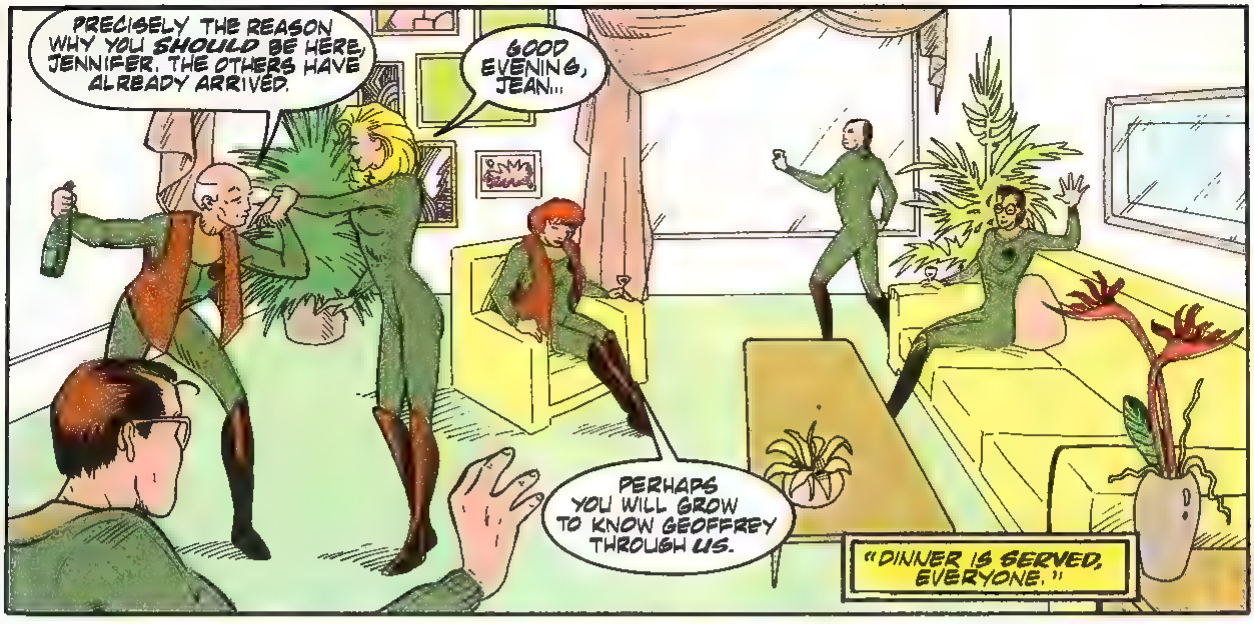
OH, BOY! IT'S A COMIC BOOK.

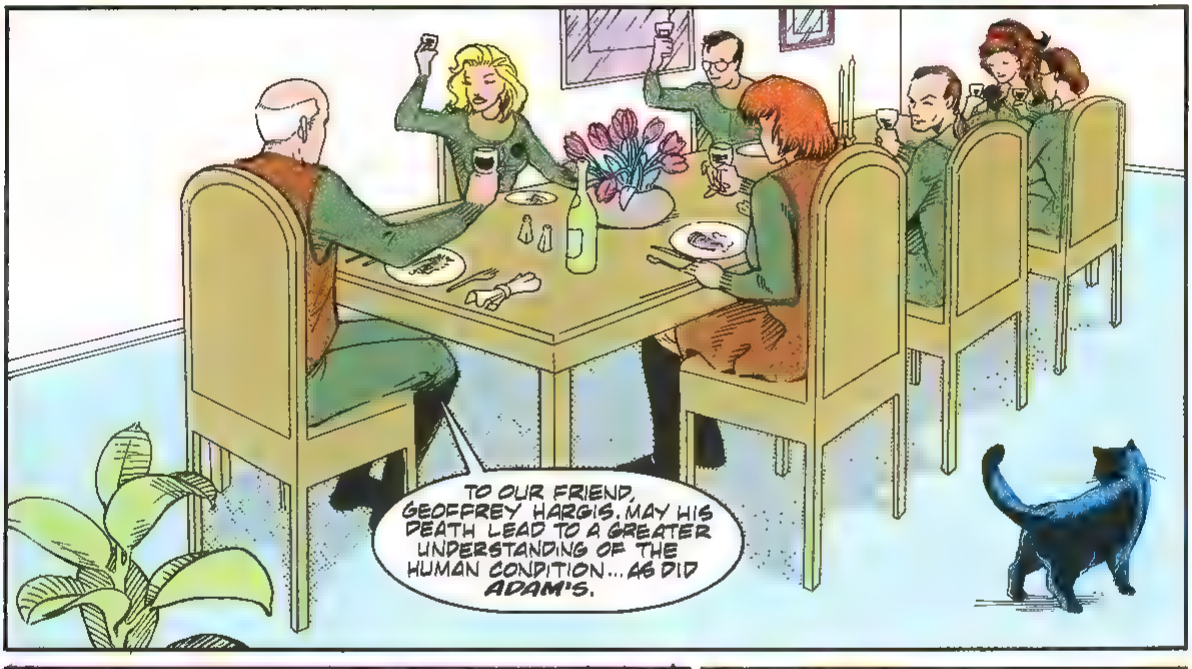
By George Broderick, Jr. & Mark Jones. Cover by C. Winston Taylor.

INNOVATION™

The series that spans over **four decades** (in no particular order)!
Catch the full-color comic book premiere at San Diego Con '91!

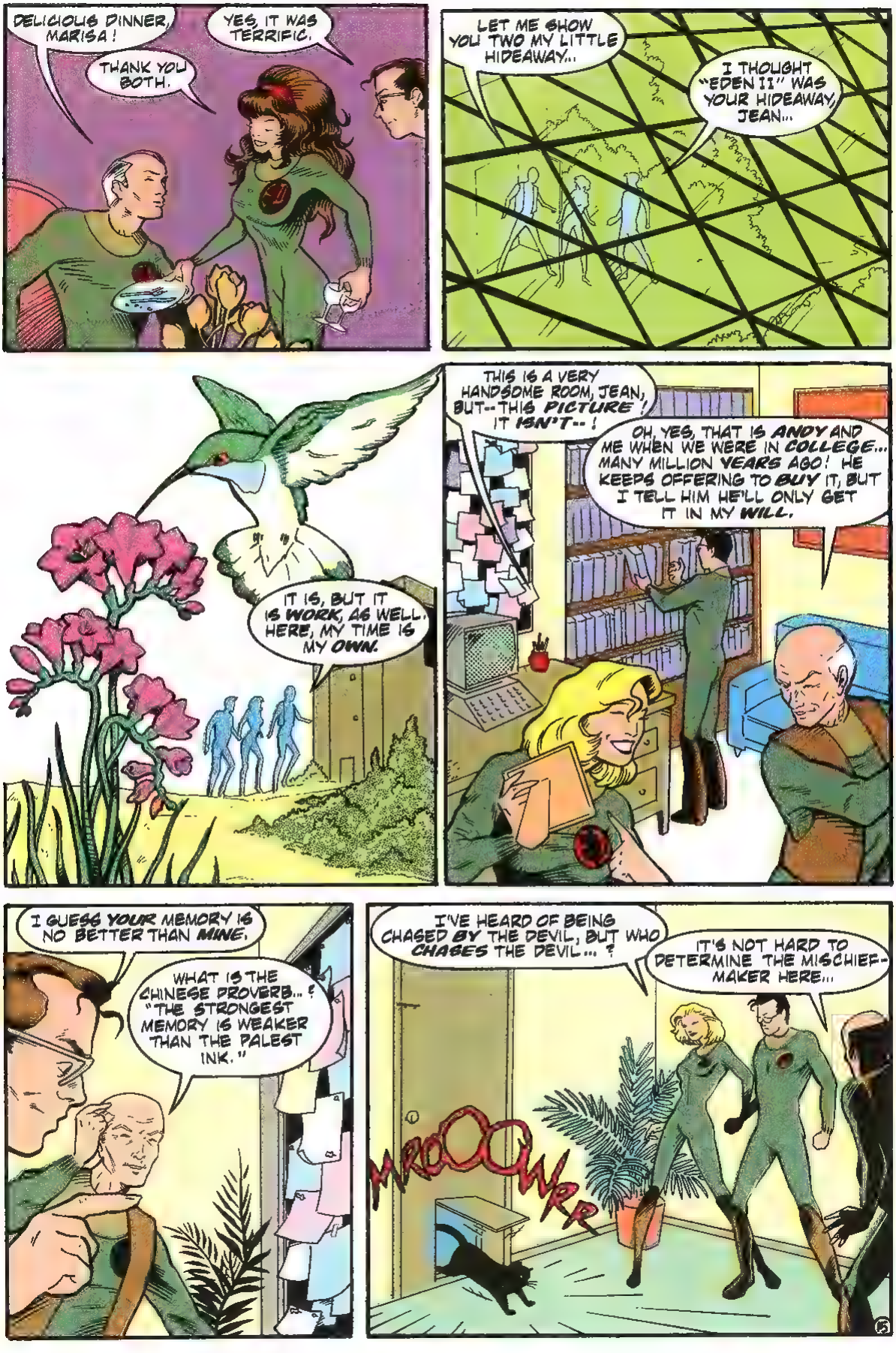

ANDY WOULD SELL MY RESEARCH TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER--HE NEEDS A CONSCIENCE. AND MARISA STILL RECEIVES THE BULK OF MY FINANCIAL ESTATE.
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT...
GOOD! DO NOT FORGET, YOU ARE ALL INVITED TO DINNER, TONIGHT. THERE YOU MAY TELL ME "YES."
I'LL SEE YOU THERE, JEAN.
THAT DOESN'T HELP US VERY MUCH. IN DETERMINING WHO WANTED HARGIS DEAD, DOES IT? YOU KNOW, DR. MOLDORI HAS THE BEST MOTIVE...
I'M CONVINCED SHE ISN'T GUILTY, AND I THOUGHT YOU SAID THE MOTIVE WAS DEEPER THAN SIMPLE FINANCIAL GAIN.
YEAH, BUT SHE ALSO COULD'VE FAKED THE AUTOPSY RESULTS..
AND IF SHE HAD, SHE WOULD SURELY HAVE EITHER RULED HERSELF OUT, OR PINNED THE CRIME ON SOMEONE ELSE.
THAT'S TRUE. HEY, ARE WE INVITED TO THIS SHINDIG TONIGHT?
"WE SURELY ARE. KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN."
"WELCOME JENNIFER, GABRIEL. I THINK YOU KNOW EVERYONE HERE.."
OF COURSE, MARISA. FRANKLY, I'M A LITTLE SURPRISED WE WERE INVITED.
IT'S NOT LIKE WE KNEW DR. HARGIS AT ALL...
13

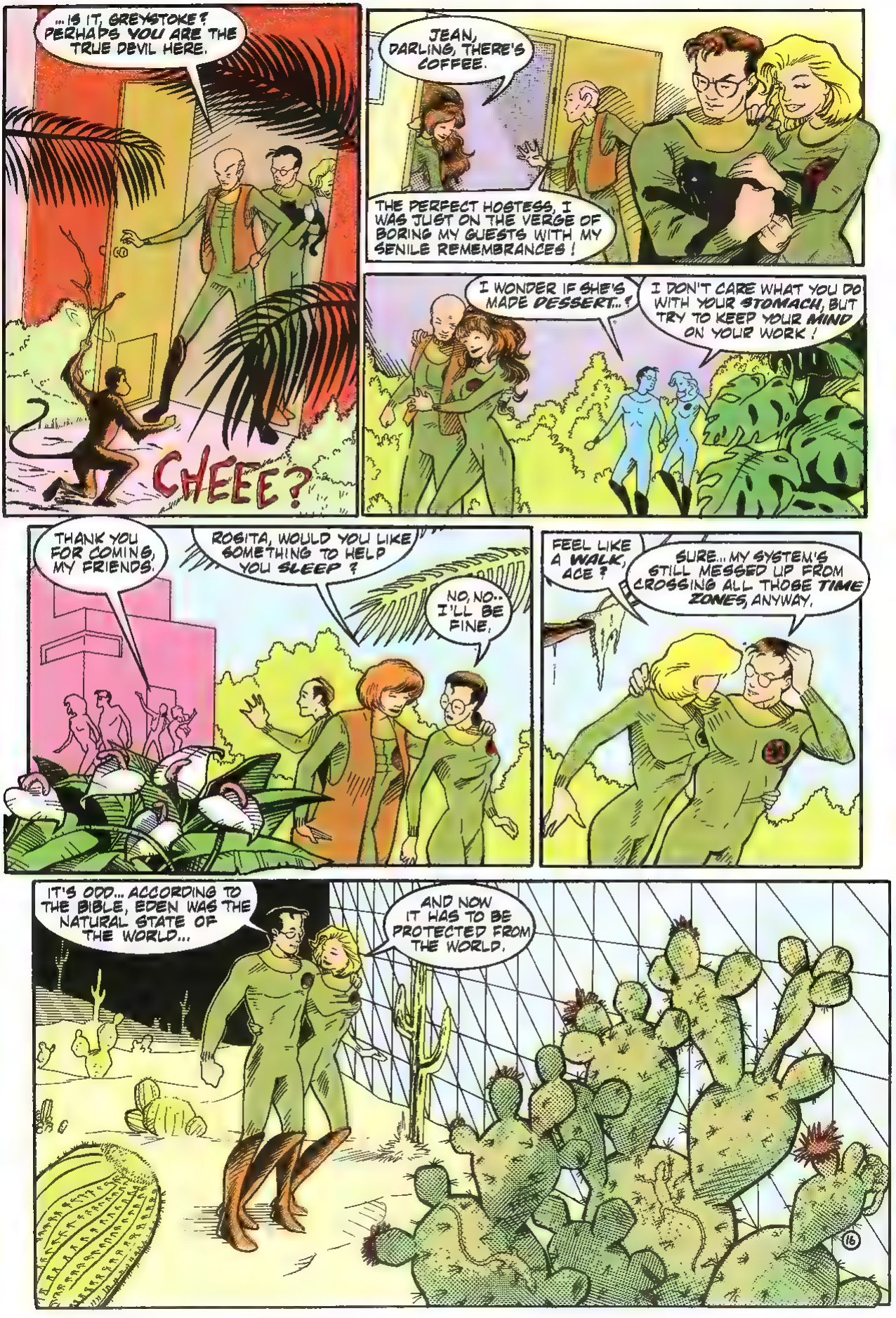

PRECISELY THE REASON WHY YOU SHOULD BE HERE, JENNIFER. THE OTHERS HAVE ALREADY ARRIVED.
GOOD EVENING, JEAN...
PERHAPS YOU WILL GROW TO KNOW GEOFFREY THROUGH US.
"DINNER IS SERVED, EVERYONE."


TO OUR FRIEND, GEOFFREY HARGIS. MAY HIS DEATH LEAD TO A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THE HUMAN CONDITION... AS DID ADAM'S.

EEEEEK
MRROWWWR

C'MERE, PAL...
THANK YOU, MARISA... I MUST HAVE HAD A LITTLE TOO MUCH TO DRINK.


DELICIOUS DINNER, MARISA!
YES, IT WAS TERRIFIC.
THANK YOU BOTH.
LET ME SHOW YOU TWO MY LITTLE HIDEAWAY...
I THOUGHT "EDEN II" WAS YOUR HIDEAWAY, JEAN...
IT IS, BUT IT IS WORK, AS WELL. HERE, MY TIME IS MY OWN.
THIS IS A VERY HANDSOME ROOM, JEAN, BUT--THIS PICTURE! IT ISN'T--!
OH, YES, THAT IS ANDY AND ME WHEN WE WERE IN COLLEGE... MANY MILLION YEARS AGO! HE KEEPS OFFERING TO BUY IT, BUT I TELL HIM HE'LL ONLY GET IT IN MY WILL.
I GUESS YOUR MEMORY IS NO BETTER THAN MINE.
WHAT IS THE CHINESE PROVERB...? "THE STRONGEST MEMORY IS WEAKER THAN THE PALEST INK."
I'VE HEARD OF BEING CHASED BY THE DEVIL, BUT WHO CHASES THE DEVIL...?
IT'S NOT HARD TO DETERMINE THE MISCHIEF-MAKER HERE...
MROOOWRR
15

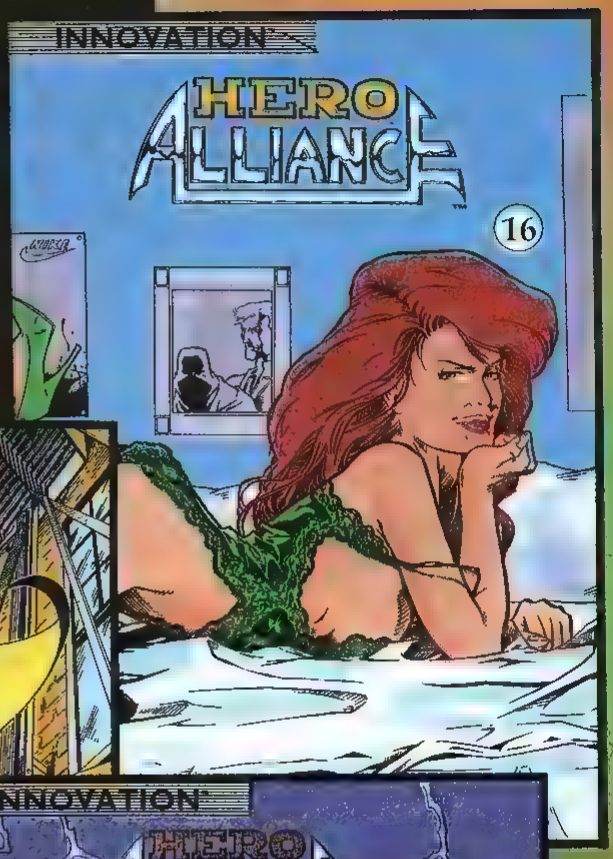

...IS IT, GREYSTOKE? PERHAPS YOU ARE THE TRUE DEVIL HERE.
CHEEE?
JEAN, DARLING, THERE'S COFFEE.
THE PERFECT HOSTESS, I WAS JUST ON THE VERGE OF BORING MY GUESTS WITH MY SENILE REMEMBRANCES!
I WONDER IF SHE'S MADE DESSERT...?
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU DO WITH YOUR STOMACH, BUT TRY TO KEEP YOUR MIND ON YOUR WORK!
THANK YOU FOR COMING, MY FRIENDS.
ROSITA, WOULD YOU LIKE SOMETHING TO HELP YOU SLEEP?
NO, NO.. I'LL BE FINE.
FEEL LIKE A WALK, ACE?
SURE... MY SYSTEM'S STILL MESSED UP FROM CROSSING ALL THOSE TIME ZONES, ANYWAY.
IT'S ODD... ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE, EDEN WAS THE NATURAL STATE OF THE WORLD...
AND NOW IT HAS TO BE PROTECTED FROM THE WORLD.
16

Welcome To A
HERO ALLIANCE
Summer....

HERO ALLIANCE #16
Prelude To A New Direction!

SENTRY SPECIAL #1
Cover by Bart Sears!

HERO ALLIANCE QUARTERLY #1
George Perez's
Innovation Premiere!



Full-Color Excitement --
ON SALE NOW!

INNOVATION™

The Best...From The Best.

INNOVATION

Comics On Sale This Month!

Anne Rice's THE MASTER OF RAMPLING GATE #1 -- A full-color graphic album of unspeakable horror by the author of *THE VAMPIRE LESTAT*! Adapted by **James Schlosser** and **Colleen Doran**. Cover painting by **John Bolton**!

Anne Rice's THE VAMPIRE COMPANION #2 -- All-new full-color special! Features a new interview with **Anne Rice**, plus special previews of her three new Innovation projects. Cover painting by **Daerick Gross**!

Anne Rice's THE VAMPIRE LESTAT #10 -- The fully-painted adaptation of the best-seller continues! Adapted by **Faye Perozich** -- and painted by **Daerick Gross** and **Richard Pace**. Cover painting by **John Bolton**!

CHILD'S PLAY: THE SERIES #3 -- Full-color series! New stories beyond the movie! "M.A.R.K.E.D.: Mother Against Rampant Kill-Happy Evil Dolls" re-introduces and frames Karen Barclay...with Chucky guilty and on the loose! Written by **Andy Mangels** -- and illustrated by **Raine Szramski** and **Mike Witherby**. Cover by **Darick Robertson** and **Mike Witherby**!

DESERT STORM: SEND HUSSEIN TO HELL #1 -- A sensational selection of Innovation's finest moments, starting off with an all-new war story. Written by **Charles Marshall** -- and illustrated by **Ernie Stiner** and **Mike Witherby**. Plus: "Iraqi & Abdulwinkle" by **George Broderick** and **Don Martinec**. Wrap-around cover by **Mark Jones** and **Mike Witherby**!

Gene Wolfe's THE SHADOW OF THE TORTURER #1 -- Six-issue full-color adaptation of the award-winning first "Book of the New Sun!" Adapted by **Scott Rockwell** and **Ted Naifeh**. Cover painting by **Sandy Collora**!

HERO ALLIANCE #17 -- Full-color super-team series! Beginning: An all-new direction for America's favorite independent super-team. "Promises To Keep" is by **David Campiti**, **J. Trent Pearson**, and **Michael Christian**. Wrap-around cover painting by **Brian Stelfreeze**!

HERO ALLIANCE QUARTERLY #1 -- Full-color, no-ads format! **George Perez**, **Matt Thompson**, **J. Trent Pearson**, **Mark Jones**, and others offer two terrific tales plus a full-color portfolio! Wrap-around cover by **George Perez**!

INNOVATION SUMMER FUN SPECIAL #1 -- 100 spectacular pages starring some of Innovation's most popular characters. *LEGENDS OF THE STARGRAZERS* sexy swimsuit cover by **Matt Thompson** and **Randy Elliott**!

John Bolton's Posters: Signed Editions. THEATRE OF VAMPIRES and *THE VAMPIRE: WOLF ATTACK*! Both are now available -- and each is limited to just 500 signed-and- numbered copies!

THE JUSTICE MACHINE #7 -- The fabulous finale in sparkling black-and-white! "Last Man On The Battlefield" presents the cataclysmic conclusion to the JM saga, in sparkling black-and-white -- written by **Tony Isabella** and illustrated by **Josh Watkins** and **Mike Gustovich**. Wrap-around cover by **Josh Watkins**!

LOST IN SPACE #1 -- Full-color series! It's back. It's *not* what you'd expect. "Seduction of the Innocent" is written by **Matt Thompson**, **David Campiti**, and **George Broderick**...illustrated by **Eddy Newell** and **Mark Jones**...airbrushed by **Scott Rockwell**...and supervised by "Will Robinson" himself: **Bill Mumy**!

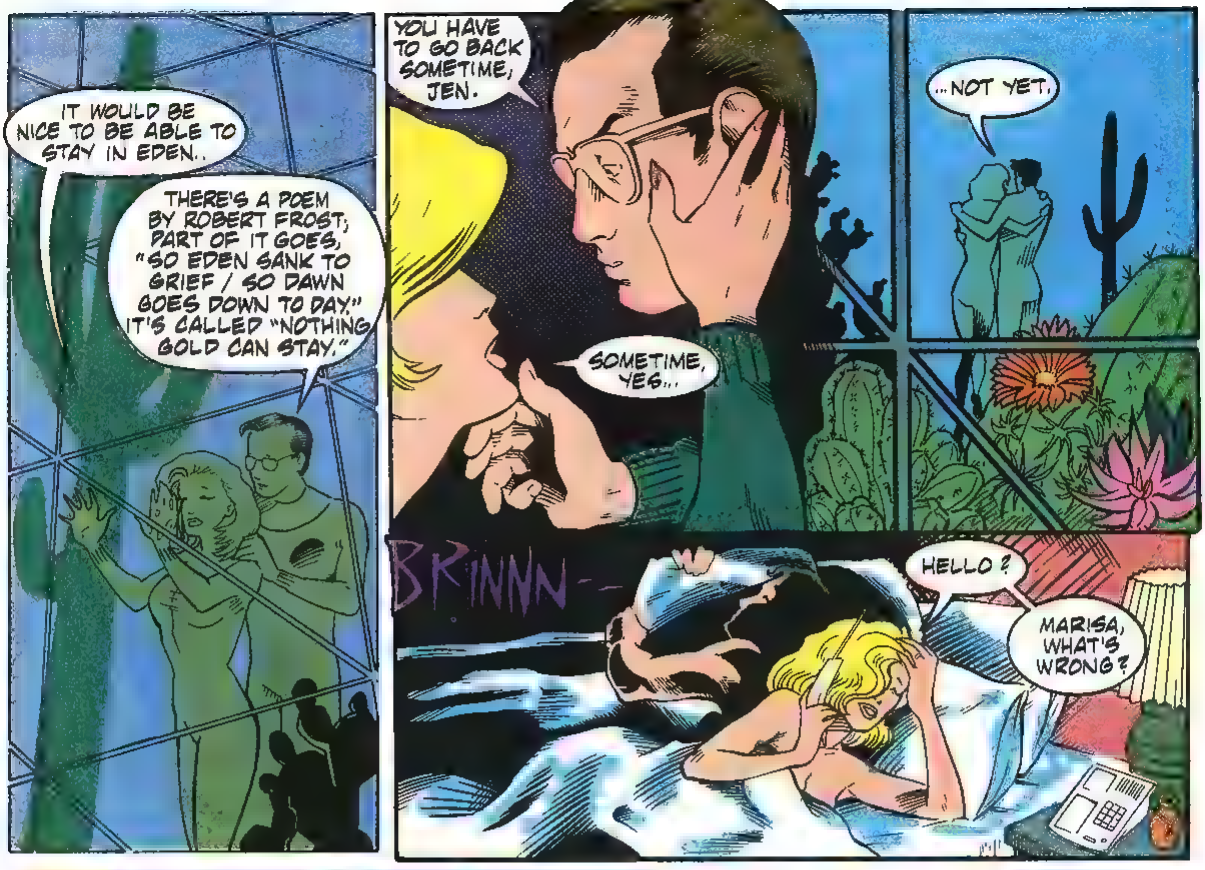
THE MAZE AGENCY #23 -- Full-color series! "A Crime In Eden" is a biosphere mystery celebrating the anniversary of the mystery story! Written by **Mike W. Barr** -- and illustrated by **Francesco** and by **Michael Oeming**!

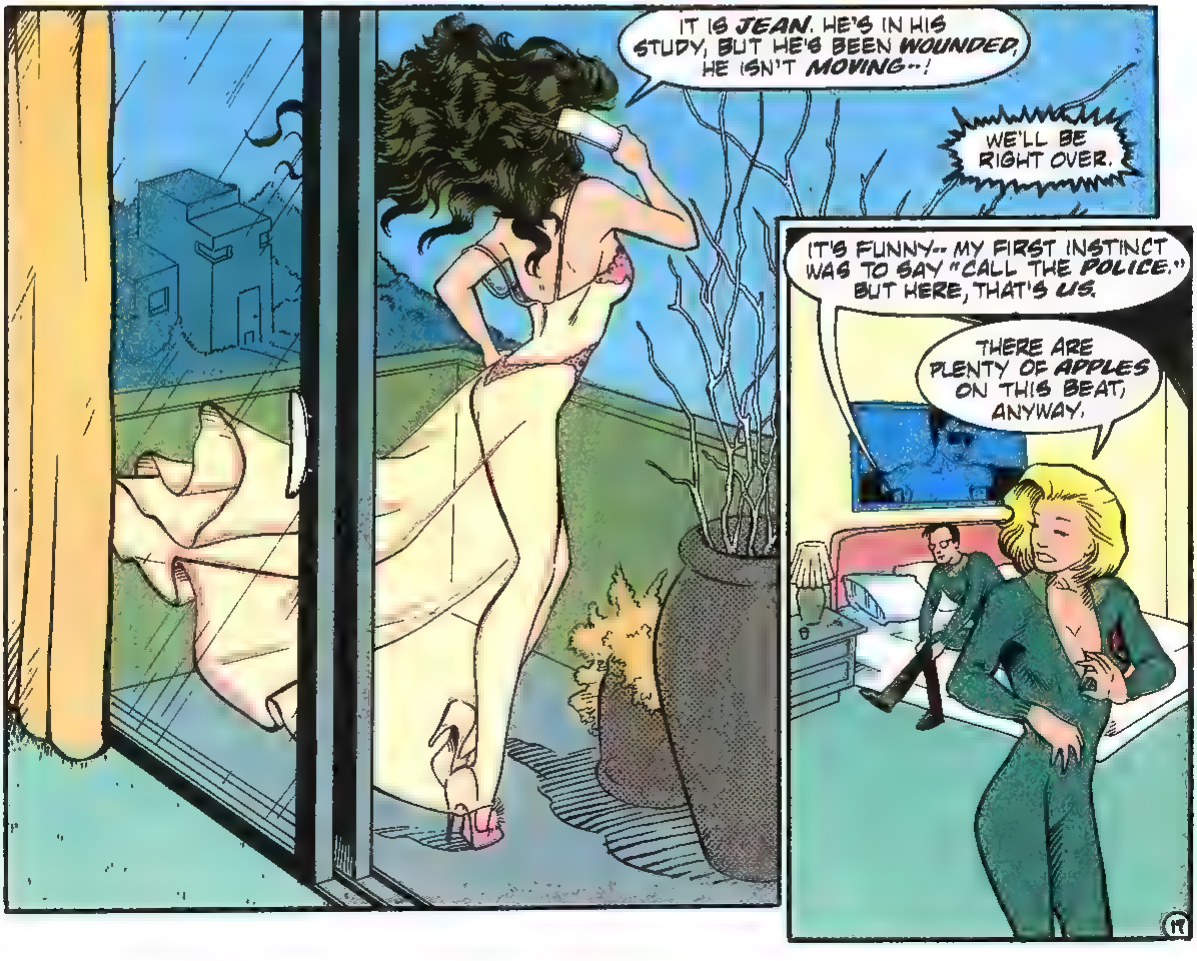
NEON CITY #1 -- An all-new Innovation B&W! A world partly repopulated by re-creations of celebrities! "Shadow Assassin" offers startling futureviews in the cyberpunk tradition -- by **Nick Anastasio** and **Joe Dunn**. Cover by **Joe Dunn**!

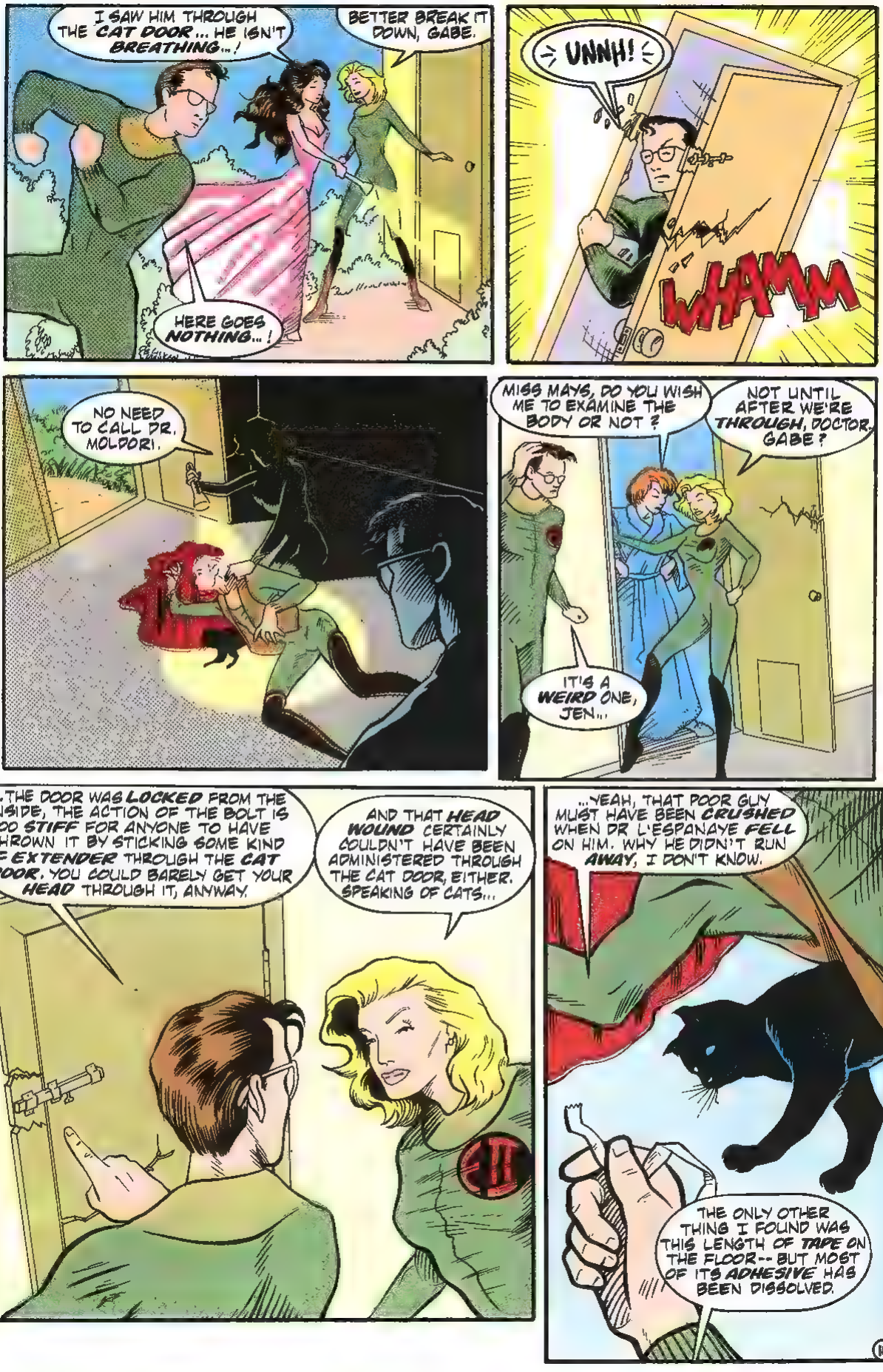
SENTRY SPECIAL #1 -- Full-color tie-in to *HERO ALLIANCE*! Sepulchre returns...more horrifying then ever! "Cold Death" is written by **Robert M. Ingersoll** and illustrated by **Ted Naifeh** and **Scott Rockwell**. Cover by **Bart Sears** and **Bill Anderson**!

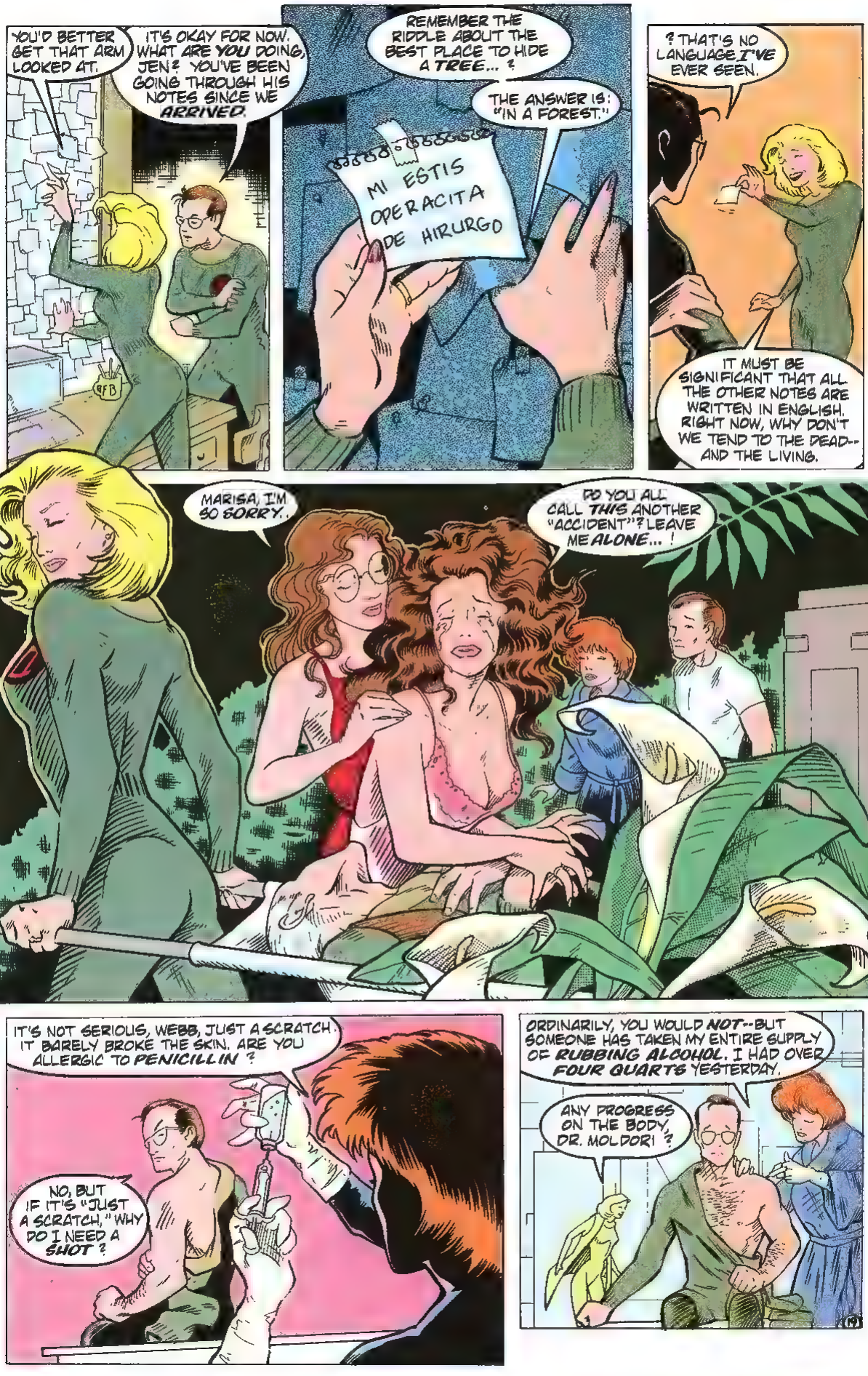
Terry Pratchett's THE COLOUR OF MAGIC #3 -- Continuing the full-color four-issue adaptation of the British best-selling *Discworld* novel! It's adapted by **Scott Rockwell**, and fully painted by **Steven Ross**. Dragon cover painting by **Daerick Gross**!

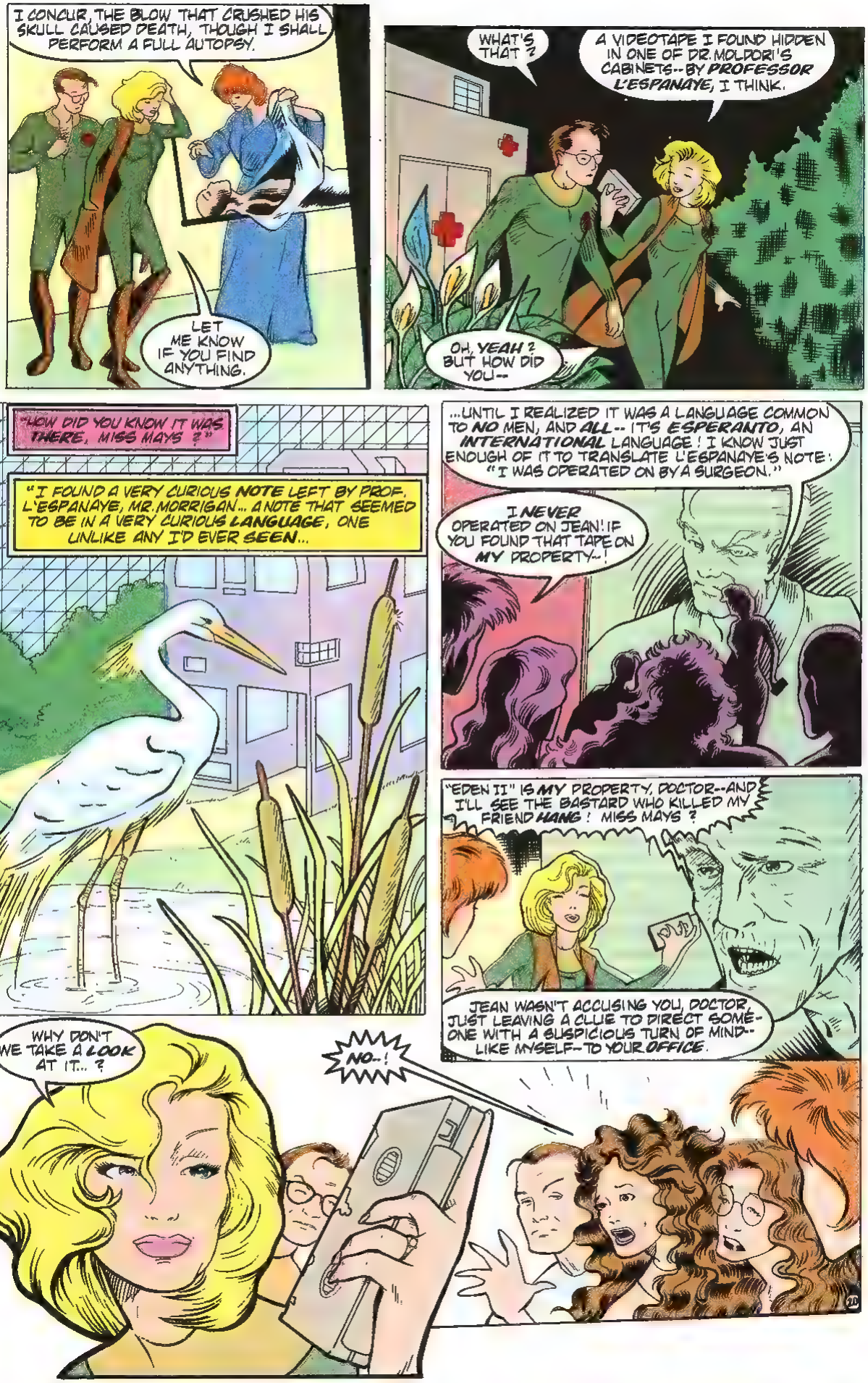
TORCHY #3 -- A special Innovation B&W! Bill Ward's classic cheesecake character continues! Written and illustrated by the legendary **Bill Ward**. Breezy "Tingler" cover painting by the incomparable **Olivia De Berardinis**!

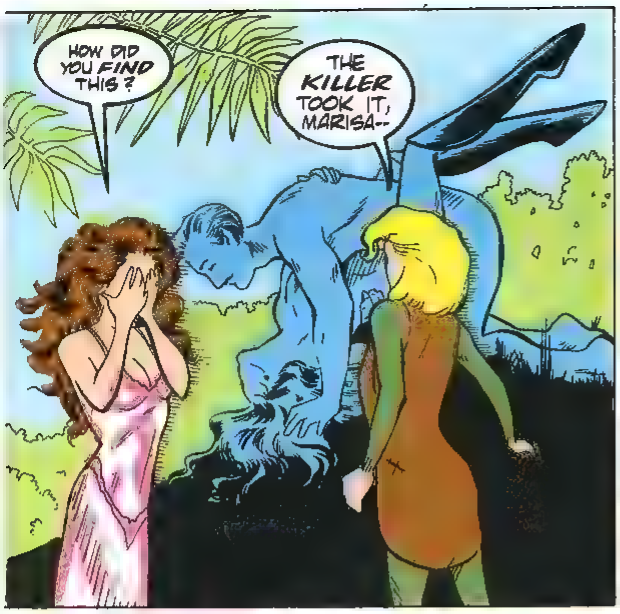

IT WOULD BE NICE TO BE ABLE TO STAY IN EDEN..
THERE'S A POEM BY ROBERT FROST; PART OF IT GOES, "SO EDEN SANK TO GRIEF / SO DAWN GOES DOWN TO DAY." IT'S CALLED "NOTHING GOLD CAN STAY."
YOU HAVE TO GO BACK SOMETIME, JEN.
SOMETIME, YES...
...NOT YET.
BRINNN--
HELLO?
MARISA, WHAT'S WRONG?

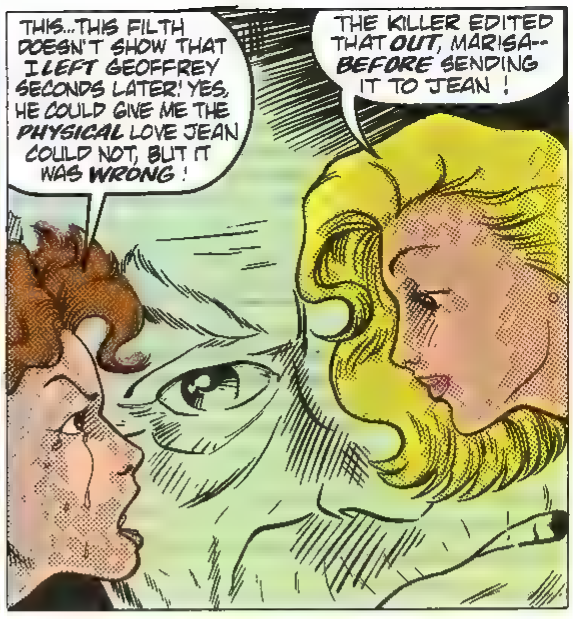

IT IS JEAN. HE'S IN HIS STUDY, BUT HE'S BEEN WOUNDED, HE ISN'T MOVING--!
WE'LL BE RIGHT OVER.
IT'S FUNNY-- MY FIRST INSTINCT WAS TO SAY "CALL THE POLICE." BUT HERE, THAT'S US.
THERE ARE PLENTY OF APPLES ON THIS BEAT, ANYWAY.


I SAW HIM THROUGH THE CAT DOOR... HE ISN'T BREATHING...!
BETTER BREAK IT DOWN, GABE.
HERE GOES NOTHING...!
UNNH!
WHAMM
NO NEED TO CALL DR. MOLDORI.
MISS MAYS, DO YOU WISH ME TO EXAMINE THE BODY OR NOT ?
NOT UNTIL AFTER WE'RE THROUGH, DOCTOR. GABE ?
IT'S A WEIRD ONE, JEN...
...THE DOOR WAS LOCKED FROM THE INSIDE, THE ACTION OF THE BOLT IS TOO STIFF FOR ANYONE TO HAVE THROWN IT BY STICKING SOME KIND OF EXTENDER THROUGH THE CAT DOOR. YOU COULD BARELY GET YOUR HEAD THROUGH IT, ANYWAY.
AND THAT HEAD WOUND CERTAINLY COULDN'T HAVE BEEN ADMINISTERED THROUGH THE CAT DOOR, EITHER. SPEAKING OF CATS...
...YEAH, THAT POOR GUY MUST HAVE BEEN CRUSHED WHEN DR L'ESPANAYE FELL ON HIM. WHY HE DIDN'T RUN AWAY, I DON'T KNOW.
THE ONLY OTHER THING I FOUND WAS THIS LENGTH OF TAPE ON THE FLOOR-- BUT MOST OF ITS ADHESIVE HAS BEEN DISSOLVED.
18


YOU'D BETTER GET THAT ARM LOOKED AT.
IT'S OKAY FOR NOW. WHAT ARE YOU DOING, JEN? YOU'VE BEEN GOING THROUGH HIS NOTES SINCE WE ARRIVED.
REMEMBER THE RIDDLE ABOUT THE BEST PLACE TO HIDE A TREE...?
THE ANSWER IS: "IN A FOREST."
MI ESTIS OPERACITA DE HIRURGO
? THAT'S NO LANGUAGE I'VE EVER SEEN.
IT MUST BE SIGNIFICANT THAT ALL THE OTHER NOTES ARE WRITTEN IN ENGLISH. RIGHT NOW, WHY DON'T WE TEND TO THE DEAD-- AND THE LIVING.
MARISA, I'M SO SORRY.
DO YOU ALL CALL THIS ANOTHER "ACCIDENT"? LEAVE ME ALONE...!
IT'S NOT SERIOUS, WEBB, JUST A SCRATCH. IT BARELY BROKE THE SKIN. ARE YOU ALLERGIC TO PENICILLIN?
NO, BUT IF IT'S "JUST A SCRATCH," WHY DO I NEED A SHOT?
ORDINARILY, YOU WOULD NOT--BUT SOMEONE HAS TAKEN MY ENTIRE SUPPLY OF RUBBING ALCOHOL. I HAD OVER FOUR QUARTS YESTERDAY.
ANY PROGRESS ON THE BODY, DR. MOLDORI?
9

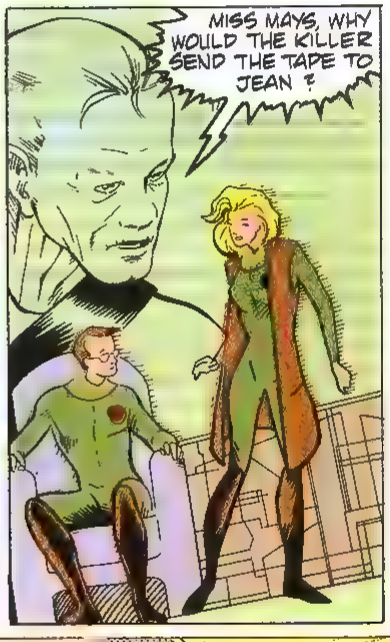

I CONCUR, THE BLOW THAT CRUSHED HIS SKULL CAUSED DEATH, THOUGH I SHALL PERFORM A FULL AUTOPSY.
LET ME KNOW IF YOU FIND ANYTHING.
WHAT'S THAT ?
A VIDEOTAPE I FOUND HIDDEN IN ONE OF DR. MOLDORI'S CABINETS--BY PROFESSOR L'ESPANAYE, I THINK.
OH, YEAH ? BUT HOW DID YOU--
"HOW DID YOU KNOW IT WAS THERE, MISS MAYS ?"
"I FOUND A VERY CURIOUS NOTE LEFT BY PROF. L'ESPANAYE, MR. MORRIGAN... A NOTE THAT SEEMED TO BE IN A VERY CURIOUS LANGUAGE, ONE UNLIKE ANY I'D EVER SEEN...
...UNTIL I REALIZED IT WAS A LANGUAGE COMMON TO NO MEN, AND ALL-- IT'S ESPERANTO, AN INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE ! I KNOW JUST ENOUGH OF IT TO TRANSLATE L'ESPANAYE'S NOTE: "I WAS OPERATED ON BY A SURGEON."
I NEVER OPERATED ON JEAN! IF YOU FOUND THAT TAPE ON MY PROPERTY--!
"EDEN II" IS MY PROPERTY, DOCTOR--AND I'LL SEE THE BASTARD WHO KILLED MY FRIEND HANG ! MISS MAYS ?
JEAN WASN'T ACCUSING YOU, DOCTOR, JUST LEAVING A CLUE TO DIRECT SOMEONE WITH A SUSPICIOUS TURN OF MIND-- LIKE MYSELF--TO YOUR OFFICE.
WHY DON'T WE TAKE A LOOK AT IT... ?
NO--!

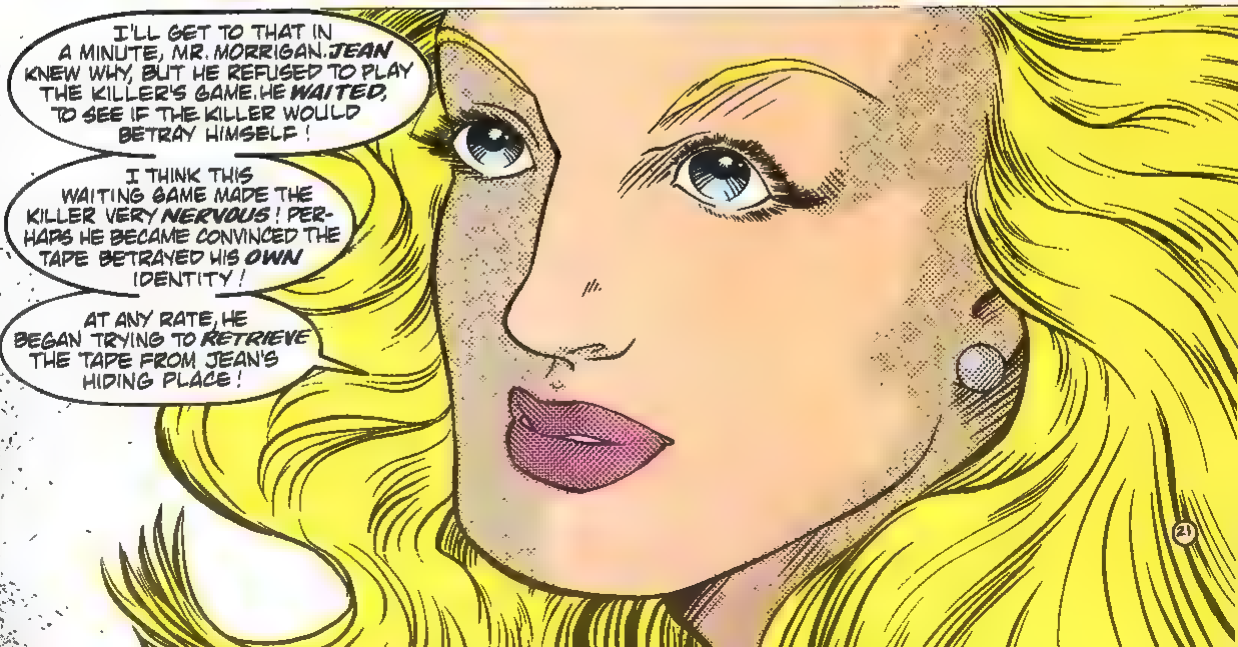

HOW DID YOU FIND THIS?
THE KILLER TOOK IT, MARISA--


THIS...THIS FILTH DOESN'T SHOW THAT I LEFT GEOFFREY SECONDS LATER! YES, HE COULD GIVE ME THE PHYSICAL LOVE JEAN COULD NOT, BUT IT WAS WRONG!
THE KILLER EDITED THAT OUT, MARISA-- BEFORE SENDING IT TO JEAN!

YOU KILLED GEOFFREY, BECAUSE HE WAS UNFAITHFUL TO YOU!
ROSITA, I DID NOT.
YOU DID! YOU KILLED THAT MAN...THAT WONDERFUL, CIVILIZED FUNNY MAN!

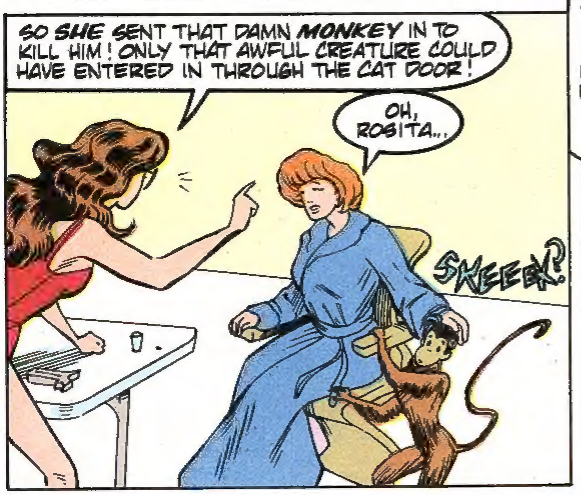
ROSITA, OURS WAS MERELY AN ENGAGEMENT OF MUTUAL CONVENIENCE. I NEVER KNEW... CERTAINLY, GEOFFREY NEVER DID.! IF WE HAD...
I COULDN'T TELL HIM HOW I FELT... NOT WITH YOU HERE ALL THOSE MONTHS...!

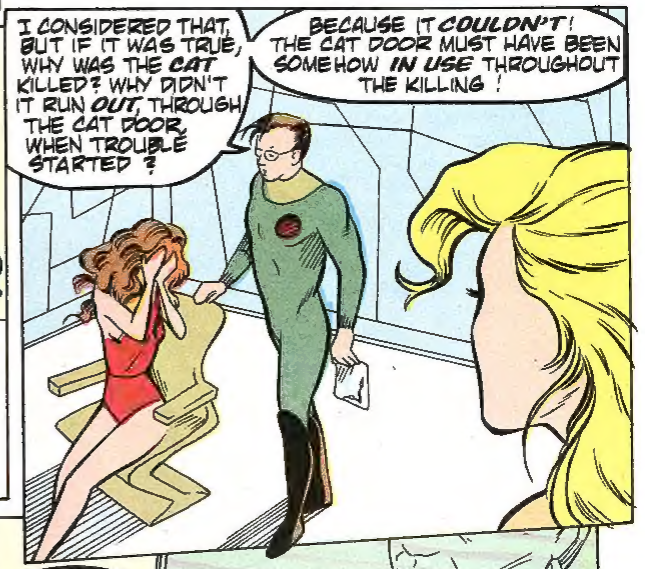

MISS MAYS, WHY WOULD THE KILLER SEND THE TAPE TO JEAN?

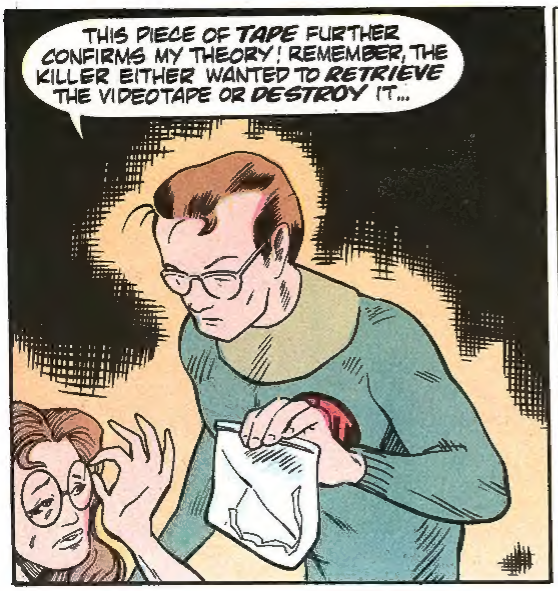

I'LL GET TO THAT IN A MINUTE, MR. MORRIGAN. JEAN KNEW WHY, BUT HE REFUSED TO PLAY THE KILLER'S GAME. HE WAITED, TO SEE IF THE KILLER WOULD BETRAY HIMSELF!
I THINK THIS WAITING GAME MADE THE KILLER VERY NERVOUS! PERHAPS HE BECAME CONVINCED THE TAPE BETRAYED HIS OWN IDENTITY!
AT ANY RATE, HE BEGAN TRYING TO RETRIEVE THE TAPE FROM JEAN'S HIDING PLACE!

THIS IS PUREST SPECULATION! JEAN SAID HE THOUGHT HARGIS DIED IN A FALL!
TO FURTHER UNNERVE THE KILLER, AND TO ATTEMPT TO ALLAY MY SUSPICIONS! JEAN WANTED TO DEAL WITH HIS PROBLEM IN HIS OWN WORLD, ON HIS OWN!

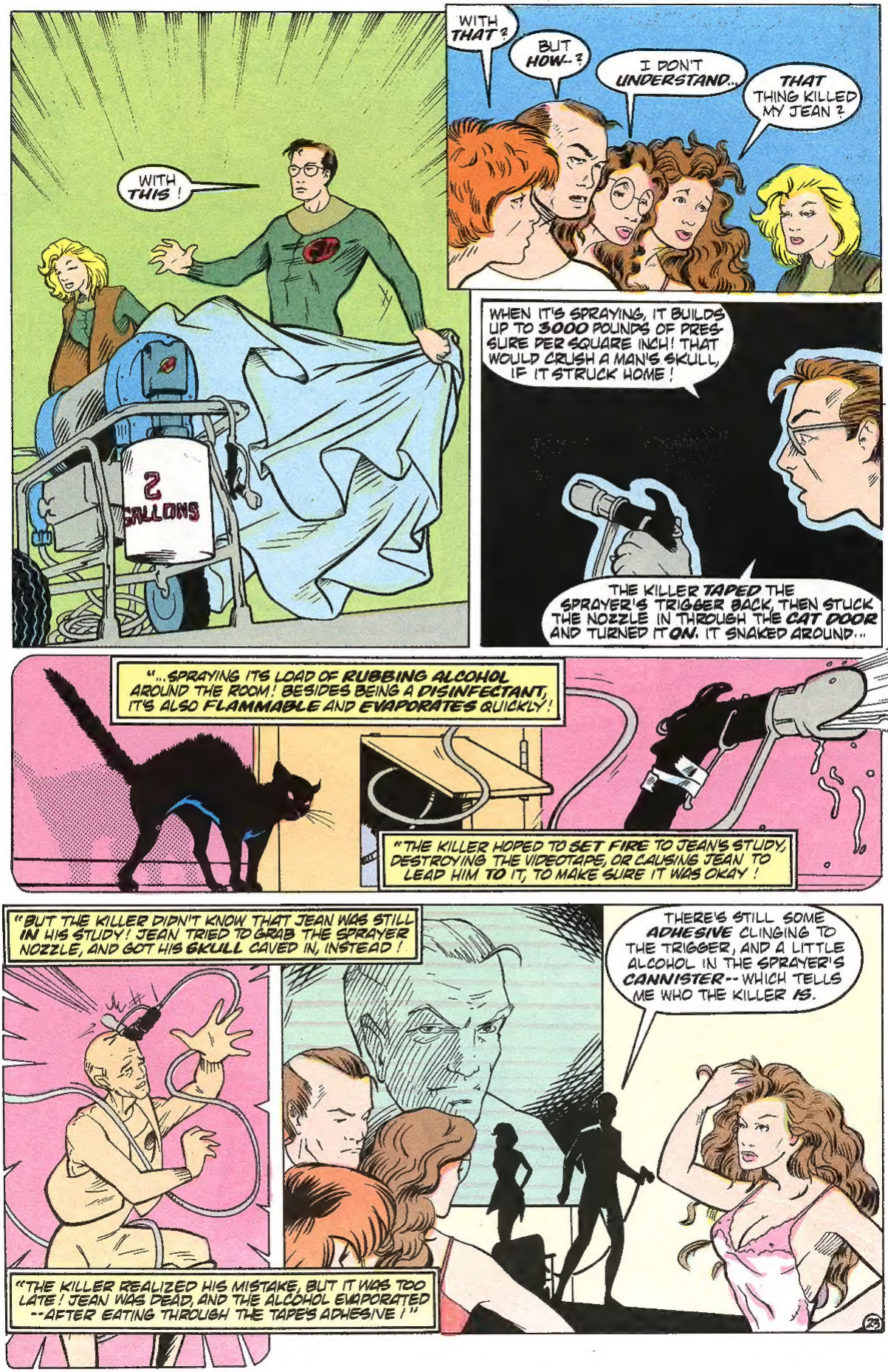
YOU SEE, THE KILLER'S ATTEMPT TO RETRIEVE THE TAPE IS WHAT KILLED JEAN! JEAN'S DEATH WAS NOTHING BUT A BY-PRODUCT!
THE KILLER COULDN'T JUST BREAK INTO JEAN'S STUDY, A DELIBERATE BURGLARY WOULD ALERT JEAN THAT HIS SUSPICIONS WERE CORRECT! SO HE--


SO SHE SENT THAT DAMN MONKEY IN TO KILL HIM! ONLY THAT AWFUL CREATURE COULD HAVE ENTERED IN THROUGH THE CAT DOOR!
OH, ROSITA...
SKEEEK?


I CONSIDERED THAT, BUT IF IT WAS TRUE, WHY WAS THE CAT KILLED? WHY DIDN'T IT RUN OUT THROUGH THE CAT DOOR, WHEN TROUBLE STARTED?
BECAUSE IT COULDN'T! THE CAT DOOR MUST HAVE BEEN SOMEHOW IN USE THROUGHOUT THE KILLING!


THIS PIECE OF TAPE FURTHER CONFIRMS MY THEORY! REMEMBER, THE KILLER EITHER WANTED TO RETRIEVE THE VIDEOTAPE OR DESTROY IT...

...AND HE TRIED BOTH IN A WAY...


WITH THAT?
BUT HOW..?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND..
THAT THING KILLED MY JEAN?
WITH THIS!
2 GALLONS
WHEN IT'S SPRAYING, IT BUILDS UP TO 3000 POUNDS OF PRESSURE PER SQUARE INCH! THAT WOULD CRUSH A MAN'S SKULL, IF IT STRUCK HOME!
THE KILLER TAPED THE SPRAYER'S TRIGGER BACK, THEN STUCK THE NOZZLE IN THROUGH THE CAT DOOR AND TURNED IT ON. IT SNAKED AROUND...
"...SPRAYING ITS LOAD OF RUBBING ALCOHOL AROUND THE ROOM! BESIDES BEING A DISINFECTANT, IT'S ALSO FLAMMABLE AND EVAPORATES QUICKLY!
"THE KILLER HOPED TO SET FIRE TO JEAN'S STUDY, DESTROYING THE VIDEOTAPE, OR CAUSING JEAN TO LEAD HIM TO IT, TO MAKE SURE IT WAS OKAY!
"BUT THE KILLER DIDN'T KNOW THAT JEAN WAS STILL IN HIS STUDY! JEAN TRIED TO GRAB THE SPRAYER NOZZLE, AND GOT HIS SKULL CAVED IN, INSTEAD!
THERE'S STILL SOME ADHESIVE CLINGING TO THE TRIGGER, AND A LITTLE ALCOHOL IN THE SPRAYER'S CANNISTER-- WHICH TELLS ME WHO THE KILLER IS.
"THE KILLER REALIZED HIS MISTAKE, BUT IT WAS TOO LATE! JEAN WAS DEAD, AND THE ALCOHOL EVAPORATED --AFTER EATING THROUGH THE TAPE'S ADHESIVE!"
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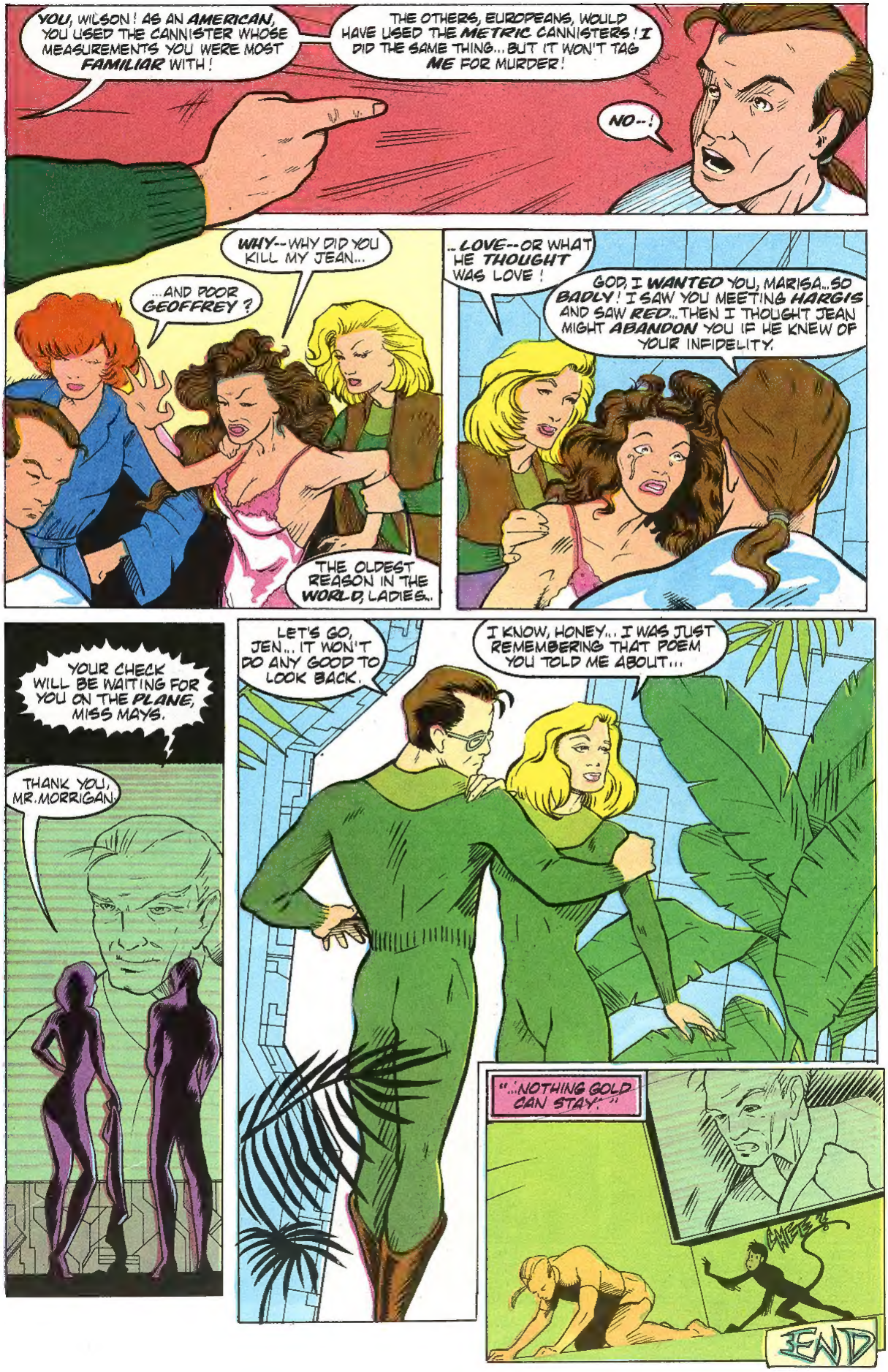
YOU, WILSON! AS AN AMERICAN, YOU USED THE CANNISTER WHOSE MEASUREMENTS YOU WERE MOST FAMILIAR WITH!
THE OTHERS, EUROPEANS, WOULD HAVE USED THE METRIC CANNISTERS! I DID THE SAME THING... BUT IT WON'T TAG ME FOR MURDER!
NO--!
WHY--WHY DID YOU KILL MY JEAN...
...AND POOR GEOFFREY?
THE OLDEST REASON IN THE WORLD, LADIES..
...LOVE--OR WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS LOVE!
GOD, I WANTED YOU, MARISA...SO BADLY! I SAW YOU MEETING HARGIS AND SAW RED...THEN I THOUGHT JEAN MIGHT ABANDON YOU IF HE KNEW OF YOUR INFIDELITY.
YOUR CHECK WILL BE WAITING FOR YOU ON THE PLANE, MISS MAYS.
THANK YOU, MR. MORRIGAN.
LET'S GO, JEN... IT WON'T DO ANY GOOD TO LOOK BACK.
I KNOW, HONEY... I WAS JUST REMEMBERING THAT POEM YOU TOLD ME ABOUT...
"...NOTHING GOLD CAN STAY."
END

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MYSTERIES & MURDER

A Whole Lotta Semic Going On!